



FAITH AND FASHION

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THE TIMES

No. 65,394

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 1995

Major promises to slash spending

Tax cuts will come from squeeze on welfare, defence and roads

By PHILIP WEBSTER, NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR last night braced Conservatives for a ruthless assault on spending, particularly on the £85 billion welfare budget, to make room for two tax-cutting budgets before the general election.

The Prime Minister told party agents in Blackpool for the annual conference that the Government had to cut taxes — but to do so it would have to make hard choices.

His tax-cutting speech heralded an expected rightward shift this week as the Cabinet seeks to widen the divide with Tony Blair's increasingly centrist Labour Party. Among policy announcements this

week, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is expected to announce a controversial new attempt to crack down on benefit fraud by using identity cards.

Responding to Alan Howarth, the MP who has defected to Labour, Mr Major promised that spending on education, law and order and people in genuine need would not be slashed. But his warning that priorities would have to be "ruthlessly set" was a clear indication that spending on welfare, defence, roads, housing, overseas aid and the arts is likely to be

severely squeezed. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will echo the message tonight with a speech saying that cutting public spending from 42 per cent of national output to around 35 per cent will, in the long term, create prosperity and make for a safer and more stable country.

Mr Major's general message would not have been the liking of Mr Howarth, who says in an interview with *The Times* today that he quit the Tories because the Prime Minister had placated the "aggressive ideological Right" and

failed to take the chance after his re-election as leader to define an alternative vision.

He complains about the Prime Minister's promises of more tax breaks for the better off and attacks on single mothers. Mr Howarth predicts that the Right will capture the party after Labour wins the next election and that the pendulum will not swing back in his political lifetime.

Last night, senior party sources said the Government would offer no sop to the Left in the wake of Mr Howarth's defection, and Mr

Major told reporters there would be no further switches, saying: "I don't think we will get any more Alan Howarths."

His remarks later were in tune with the shift to the Right that is likely to be reflected in all the main conference addresses, although he omitted one announcement from his speech, believing that it would be overshadowed by the death of Lord Howe of the Hirsel.

He did, however, say that Mr Lilley would be announcing measures to root out abuse in the welfare system and hinted at the

use of identity cards for benefit claimants to curb fraud, as well as incentives and penalties to encourage people back into work. Mr Major said: "Few things make people more angry than to see or hear about others living off the welfare state — off taxpayers' money — when they could look after themselves."

The key to a better life for all was economic success, he said. "I want to make Britain the unrivalled enterprise centre of Europe and we will reject policies that harm our well-being. Enterprise requires in-

centives; it requires proper rewards. So we must cut taxes when we can because lower taxes promote enterprise."

Mr Major said that the Tories would never turn a blind eye to the poor but neither would it patronise them. "Enterprise and liberty are core Conservative principles, as are responsibility and self-help."

Mr Major said that tough choices lay ahead, but he promised that education would be high on the list of priorities, saying: "No Conservative government I lead will cease to pursue our aim of giving every child the best education possible."

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Libby Purves, page 18

Tributes to Home, respected laird and leader

By ALAN HAMILTON AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Prime Minister last night led tributes to Lord Home of the Hirsel, who died yesterday aged 92. He described the former Conservative Prime Minister as an understated and often underestimated man who personified the quiet dignity of a Scottish gentleman.

John Major said that Lord Home's wealth of knowledge, keen instinct and deep patriotism had combined in a lifetime of public service.

Lord Home died surrounded by his close family. His children, David, Meriel, Diana and Caroline, gathered round his bedside in a room overlooking the magnificent estate of the Hirsel.

Yesterday Lord Home's son, David Douglas-Home, who becomes the 15th Earl, said: "It was all very peaceful and very quiet. My father felt no pain." He said his father had difficulty coming to terms with the death of his wife Elizabeth, Lady Home, in 1990, and suffered a stroke afterwards.

Yesterday workers on the estate and locals in the town of Coldstream remembered Lord Home simply as "The Laird". The local Mercedes Benz garage blew his flag at half-mast. Kathy Dickson, who runs the village wool shop, said: "He was a true gentleman."

Another local said: "He had dignity, decency and integrity."

Sir Edward Heath said: "He was completely trusted by everyone with whom he was dealing." Baroness Thatcher said: "He represented all that was best in his generation."

Lord Hailsham recalled: "He was quite reluctant to be Prime Minister, but he did enjoy being at the Foreign Office."

Enoch Powell commented: "I always regarded Alec as the finest thing in politics — a politician whose word one could trust." Sir David Steel said: "He was one of the last of the gentlemen politicians."

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After being inscribed on 47,000 fly-leaves in America, the signature of General Colin Powell was an illegible, angular scrawl by the time he arrived at Hatchards, the London booksellers, yesterday, above, to sign yet more copies of his bestselling autobiography (Alan Hamilton writes). The general is

Powell family queue for a meeting

said to be the fastest pen-slinger in the West. In a frantic 40-minute session yesterday he signed 463 books. Bookshop staff judged him faster than Baroness Thatcher, their last book-signing star. The queue winding

around the shop and into Piccadilly included Bill Morris, general secretary of the transport workers' union, who shares Jamaican roots with General Powell. Hovering in the wings was Ethan Bent, right, a British Rail

ticket collector from Brixton Hill, one of a vast extended family in south London claiming connections with the general. Mr Bent says he is the general's cousin, and met him for the first time at the shop door, having his hand warm-

ly shaken. Another relation waiting in the queue was Verna Heap, who patiently explained that her son's father, to whom she was not married, was the son of Nancy Powell, a first cousin of Luther Powell, the general's father. At which point the family tree became too complicated to pursue.



Fraud case juries may go to save time and money

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JURIES may be abolished in complex fraud trials following a review by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

There is growing support among senior legal figures for the move because of the increasing cost, length and complexity of trials such as Guinness and Blue Arrow. Backing would come from Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney General, and George Stabile, director of the Serious Fraud Office, while Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, would not oppose reopening the debate.

The Government rejected the proposal when it was recommended in a report on serious fraud under Lord Roskill in 1986. But one senior government official said yesterday: "There is a shift of view on this — a definite softening of approach from ten years ago."

Even among those who support the place of juries in the criminal justice system, there is concern over the length of time taken by fraud trials, with consequent expense. "It is not that juries cannot understand fraud trials, or that they do not reach the right decisions, because I believe they can and do," one official said. "But it is the time these trials take — which can inevitably mean you have a very unrepresentative jury."

So far, Mr Howard has

asked officials to take soundings from senior legal figures on proposals to abolish juries in complex fraud cases. A survey of the legal profession could follow.

In March this year, a fraud trial which cost an estimated £2 million collapsed after six months at Newport Crown Court when the presiding judge ruled that the evidence was too difficult for the jury to understand. Judge Crowther said the evidence was "oppressive and unmanageable".

The report under Lord Roskill recommended that complicated fraud trials should be handled by some kind of tribunal, probably consisting of a judge sitting with a lay assessor.

At the time, the Government preferred the dissenting opinion attached to the report by Walter Merricks, now a senior official at the Law Society. He said: "The right of the citizen not to be liable to incarceration for a lengthy period other than on a jury verdict has become a civil right which should only be dislodged for good cause."

Certainly, juries might prefer more help in dealing with heavy cases. A questionnaire to jurors after a £43 million mortgage fraud trial found that the use of computers to display documents on screen speeded up the trial and helped understanding.

Lloyds-TSB merger will cost thousands of jobs

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LOYDYS Bank and TSB are to merge in a £5 billion deal that will create Britain's biggest High Street banking network.

The planned takeover will leave a £15 billion retail banking giant, second in size only to HSBC Holdings, the £24 billion Hong Kong and Shanghai group that bought Midland Bank three years ago.

The merger, which needs shareholder and regulatory approval, is likely to mean the loss of thousands of jobs. Analysts in the City estimated about 10 per cent of the 73,500 staff in Britain of the two banks could go over the next few years, and at least ten per cent of the 3,000 branches could close.

News of the merger was described by Leif Mills, general secretary of Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, as "appalling". He said: "This would mean savage cutbacks in the branch network and less customer choice. There is absolutely no need for a merger between two banks who are highly successful on their own."

He added that if the merger proceeds, Bifu would call for an immediate investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

Lloyds and TSB were forced to announce their plans two weeks earlier than they had planned after a report appeared at the weekend that Lloyds was in merger talks.

Details of the Lloyds-TSB merger will be released tomorrow. The two sides have, however, been in talks for several months, and talking seriously for several weeks.

The takeover will create a financial services combine with £140 billion assets, 89,500 staff, pre-tax profits of £2 billion, 3,000 branches, and 15 million customers.

Lloyds employs in Britain and abroad, 62,500 staff including those with the Cheltenham & Gloucester, the former building society that it bought in August for £1.8 billion. TSB employs 27,000 staff, most of them in the UK.

Lloyds is to fund the takeover by issuing new shares to TSB shareholders. There will be no payments to Lloyds or TSB customers, unless they are also TSB shareholders. The merger will value each TSB ordinary share at 329p, including a special dividend of 68p per share.

When the takeover is completed, Lloyds shareholders will own 70 per cent and TSB shareholders will own 30 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Neither bank would comment on the likely effect on jobs. However, sources close to Lloyds said any job reduction would be in large part through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. Cuts are likely to be in central administration and wherever there was an overlap, such as in Treasury operations.

The move is part of a widespread consolidation in the financial services industry. The three leading building societies, Alliance & Leicester, Nationwide and the Woolwich, are all thought to be considering flotation plans, while insurance companies such as the Prudential and Legal & General are thought to be considering how best to take part in the current merger and takeover fever.

Sir Brian Pitman will be chief executive at the new Lloyds TSB, while Peter Ellwood, chief executive of TSB, will be one of two deputy chief executives. He will be put in charge of integrating the retail operations, and is seen as the likely successor to Sir Brian.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said he would examine the terms before deciding whether to call for a reference to the MMC.

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Bosnian protest postpones ceasefire

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HOURS before the US-brokered ceasefire was due to take effect in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian Government said last night that its conditions for the agreement had not been met and it would postpone implementation.

The ceasefire, due to go into effect one minute after midnight this morning was put off because the restoration of water, electricity and gas supplies had not taken place.

Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnian minister in charge of relations with the United Nations said: "Nearly none of the conditions has been met."

Earlier yesterday, Nato launched airstrikes against Serb command and control facilities near Tuzla after a Norwegian soldier was killed in a Serb attack on the airfield near the city.

News of the postponement came three days after President Clinton had used the apparent breakthrough to trumpet a string of foreign policy successes.

Serbs bombed, page 14

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Duke bows to protesters and reprieves historic oaks



The Duke urged to think again by the Prince of Wales

By MICHAEL HORNBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Edinburgh has agreed to spare 80 oak trees in Windsor Great Park after protests by residents and conservation groups.

The trees, including 20 that are more than 250 years old, were to have been felled under a plan to replant a three-mile grassy avenue called Queen Anne's Ride with 1,000 oak saplings to give it a more uniform appearance.

The Prince of Wales is believed to have been among those who urged his father, chief ranger of the park, to think again. The World Wildlife Fund for Nature, of which the Duke is the international president, had also expressed its dismay to Buckingham Palace. A

fund spokesman said yesterday: "We are very gratified by today's decision."

A handful of protesters, who have been taking it in turns to squat in the branches of some of the trees since late July, were yesterday folding up their hammocks and preparing to leave, apparently satisfied that the oaks were safe.

Christopher Howes, chief executive of the Crown Estate Commissioners, said the decision to halt the felling had been aimed at balancing the concern of the public with the commissioners' statutory duty to maintain the character of the park.

"I believe that our decision strikes the right balance," Mr Howes said. "The commissioners remain confident that future generations will enjoy the majesty of the avenue as envisaged by our predecessors in 1720."

DOMESDAY TREES

Oaks can live for 1,000 years or more. John White, chief dendrologist at the Forestry Commission, said: "There are about 50 oaks in England that we refer to as Domesday trees and are at least 1,000 years of age. Trees between 500 and 700 years old are by no means uncommon." Two of the oldest

are near Stamford, Lincolnshire, and at Croft Castle, near Leominster. Hereford and Worcester. Their trunk girth is about 40ft. Mr White said: "After 200 years or so the trees rot inside and eventually become hollow. This is when they are most important as a home for fungi and beetles."

spared, including one which is host to a rare fungus, *Phellinus robustus*, known at only three other sites in Britain.

Fifty-eight oaks planted in the 1920s and 1970s will also be kept, although some will be transplanted to the northern end of the ride to

group trees of the same age together.

About 100 lime trees in the ride will be dug up and replaced with oak. Those that are not diseased will be replanted in the park or in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

David Henshiwood, local team manager for English Nature, the Government's nature conservation adviser, said: "We were opposed to the original scheme, but we are delighted that the older trees will now be left to provide a habitat for the rare fungi and insects such as beetles that depend on them."

"Oaks can easily live for between 500 and 700 years and they become most valuable as a habitat for wildlife as they begin to rot from within. They can still be put to use when the

heartwood has gone and they are little more than hollow husks."

John Colby, director of planning and housing for the royal borough, said: "We are disappointed that some of the trees have already gone, but very pleased that the Crown Estate has now come up with an acceptable compromise."

Queen Anne's Ride was originally planted with a mixture of oaks, elms and limes. The elms were killed in the 1970s by Dutch elm disease and many of the limes have also died.

The idea behind the replanting was to create an avenue that consisted entirely of oaks of a uniform age and height. Many of the existing oaks were planted at different dates. Several hundred were replaced in a first phase of replanting in 1992.

'Each time he got more violent' Sex attacker admits savage killing of mother and girl, 4

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SEX attacker who savagely stabbed a young mother and suffocated her four-year-old daughter in their home was ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor high security hospital yesterday.

Police believe Robert Napper, a schizophrenic, may have spied on Samantha Bisset, 28, and her boyfriend before climbing into her home in Plumstead, southeast London, to attack them. After his arrest, police discovered maps marking the spy point and the routes taken by potential rape victims.

Yesterday the Old Bailey was told Napper stabbed Miss Bisset eight times in the neck in her hallway and then sexually assaulted and suffocated her daughter Jasmine in her bed. Later, Napper dragged Miss Bisset's body into the living room and mutilated her body on a cushion he would have seen from his spy point.

Napper, 29, pleaded not guilty to the murders but guilty to manslaughter on ground of diminished respon-



The lonely hearts advert in a local newspaper

sibility. He also admitted two attempted rapes and a rape in the previous year. His pleas were accepted by Mr Justice Hooper.

Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, said Napper had committed three sex attacks on young women while they were walking in open public places in the Hither Green and Eltham areas of south London the previous year.

In the third attack, Napper stalked a woman as she pushed her two-year-old daughter in a buggy. He attacked her from behind, putting a ligature round her throat. When she resisted she was badly beaten and raped next to her daughter.

After the case, Detective Superintendent Michael Banks said: "It's one of the most savage I've ever seen. Each time, he got more and

more violent." During the investigation detectives uncovered a lonely hearts advertisement which Miss Bisset had put in a local newspaper some months before her death. They investigated whether it could be linked to the killings and traced seven or eight people who answered it.

Miss Bisset's mother, Maggie Morrison, 53, collapsed and died last weekend. Her husband Jack said after the case: "As far as I am concerned Robert Napper killed Samantha's mother as well. Maggie just couldn't take the strain of it all."

Samantha Bisset was a free spirit who abandoned her middle-class roots to take to the road as a New Age traveller before settling in London with her baby daughter. She had travelled widely, spending several months exploring Europe and, in the 1980s, occasionally joined the so-called peace convoy to Stonehenge.

Mr Banks said Ms Bisset "was the sort of woman who did not quite know where her life was going until her daughter was born. Then the little girl gave her life meaning."



Samantha Bisset, a former hippy, was devoted to her daughter Jasmine, whose father was a New Age traveller. Napper may have spied on them before the attack

Boy loses pony after DNA test finds true owner

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY aged seven was told yesterday that the Shetland pony he treasured had been stolen when his parents bought it for him and, after a DNA test, was to be given back to its rightful owner.

Tony Hughes wept after magistrates at Yeovil, Somerset, ordered Rosie to be returned to Irene Morris, a horse breeder, from whose stables near Bridgwater it was taken in the spring of last year.

Arthur Hughes, 52, and his wife Diane, 46, bought the chestnut pony for £250 at the Priddy Horse Fair three months later. However, early this year Mrs Morris, 41, and police arrived at the Hughes's home in Tintinhull claiming the animal she knew as Allermoor Renata was bred from a mare and stallion she owned.

Rosie was taken away for DNA testing and the two families were left to fight for possession of the animal under the Police Property Act. The Hughes family claimed an ancient charter in force at the fair called Market Overie meant the horse belonged to them because it had been bought in good faith.

Yesterday, however, the magistrates found for Mrs Morris and returned the animal to her.

Mrs Hughes made an emotional plea for her son to be

allowed to keep the horse. She said: "Please let my son have his pony back. I bought it in good faith. I didn't commit a crime." Mr Hughes said his son had saved his pocket money towards the cost of the pony he had always wanted.

Sue Dauncey, for the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police, said DNA tests showed that Mrs Morris's mare and stallion were the true parents of the foal.

Mrs and Mrs Hughes stood with their arms round Tony as he sobbed outside the court. Mrs Hughes shook hands with Mrs Morris and said: "I have no bad feelings against Mrs Morris but although we haven't got a lot of money, we will carry this on. We will take it as far as we can for Tony's sake. He has taken this very badly."

Mrs Morris said: "I feel very sorry for the Hughes family but I am obviously relieved that I will have her back. People may think I'm depriving a little boy of his beloved pony and I'm cruel. But think what my children have been through. My daughter Melissa, who's only 12, and Louise are particularly in love with her. My daughters were equally heartbroken when they were robbed of Allermoor Renata. This year has been hell for them."

French customs 'wished dog smuggling pair luck'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who were fined yesterday for smuggling a dog through the Channel Tunnel claimed that French customs officers allowed them to board a train with the animal and wished them good luck.

Graydon Denn, 29, and his wife Tamar, 20, admitted bringing Balak into Britain on a Eurostar train. The dog was discovered in a plastic holdall that the wife was carrying as she left the train at Waterloo on October 1. The couple, of Camden, north London, were each fined £400 and ordered to pay £100 costs at Hove Magistrates' Court in

London in the first case of its kind involving the tunnel. Paul Chadha, prosecuting for the Corporation of London, said the couple had told officials they were stopped by French customs officers in Paris. "They said they had told them they couldn't take the dog into Britain but they allowed them to board with the dog and wished them good luck."

Denn, an artist who had been working in Israel, said: "I rescued the dog from a litter of puppies in Jerusalem. The owner wasn't in a position to keep any of the puppies and

was going to have them destroyed." The dog had been vaccinated against rabies in Israel.

The magistrate, Geoffrey Brown, said the offence carried a maximum fine of £5,000. He said the fines took into account the facts that the wife was unemployed — she is awaiting a work permit — and that the husband was not sure of finding work in London.

After the case Graydon Denn condemned British laws which demand stricter prohibition on the movement of animals than in other European Union countries.

"To put a dog for half a year in a unit with no contact with other human beings or animals when its life expectancy is five or six years maximum is ludicrous and there should be some kind of change," he added.

Balak is being held under a 15-day quarantine order at the Corporation of London's Heathrow Animal Centre. Denn said the animal would then be flown back to Israel and looked after by friends because they did not want it pining in a quarantine unit for six months.

Loved ones book place in heaven

By NICK NUTTALL

AN AMERICAN funeral company is planning to fly cremated ashes into orbit, using urns carried piggy-back on commercial space rockets.

Charles Chafer, vice-president of Celestis, the company offering the service, said yesterday: "Some choose to have their ashes sprinkled on the ocean. Some want ashes to be scattered from an airplane. We've just added another option. We see this as the most environmentally clean way of disposing of ashes."

British funeral directors said yesterday that they would be happy to offer the service to customers. A spokeswoman for the National Association of Funeral Directors, in Solihull, said: "The disposal of remains is a very personal affair and whatever relatives wish to do, our members will do all they can to help."

The cost for Britons will be close to the quoted £3,000 with the only extra being a charge for posting the ashes to the company's headquarters in Houston, Texas. The inaugural flight would be next year.



Graydon and Tamar Denn outside court yesterday

Walker, star of astrology, dies at 64

By EDWARD GORMAN

PATRIC WALKER, whose astrological predictions appeared in magazines and newspapers around the world from *Harpers & Queen* to the *South China Morning Post*, has died at the age of 64.

Mr Walker had contracted salmonella poisoning during

the summer. Despite treatment at the Lister and University College hospitals in London, Mr Walker was unable to shake off the infection and died at his Kensington home on Sunday.

The *London Evening Standard*, which ran his daily column for 15 years, replaced it with a large picture of Mr Walker in its later editions yesterday. The newspaper said that Mr Walker had changed horoscope writing for a whole generation and was "the universally acknowledged master of his craft."

Shelley von Strunckel, an American astrologer who worked with him at the newspaper for a while, said that he took astrology "from a tawdry... rather downmarket

amusement and brought to it reflection, elegance and thoughtfulness."

A Roman Catholic who saw no conflict between astrology and religious conviction, Mr Walker believed that people read horoscopes when they had problems. The four constant ones were love, work, health and money.

"A lot of what I write is advice: 'Get on with it. Don't whinge,'" he said recently. "I like people who are prepared to accept that without a loss, a challenge, without suffering, life isn't complete."

Mr Walker — a Libran whose birthday was September 25 — took up astrology after meeting Helene Hoskins, the American practitioner known as Celeste, at a



Walker saw his role as helping with problems

dinner party in 1959. His initial scepticism developed into a genuine belief.

A private man, Mr Walker spent much of his time in the village of Lindos on the Greek island of Rhodes.

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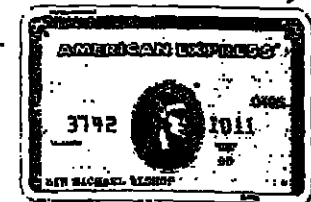
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ADMIRAL

Labour leader's wife defends the Conservative council that made 2,000 redundant

Mrs Blair finds herself an unlikely Tory ally

By Andrew Pierce

A CONSERVATIVE council that has made more than 2,000 employees redundant had an unlikely champion at an industrial tribunal yesterday — Cherie Booth, QC, wife of the Labour leader.

Brent council, once the *bête noire* of the Tories, fell into Conservative control in the 1991 local elections and is now the prize object of Labour's scorn.

Ms Booth, who is representing the council against allegations of unfair dismissal brought by 55 former employees, opened the case at the North London Industrial Tribunal Centre by contrasting the efficiency of the Conservative regime against the old Labour authority.

Ms Booth, who specialises in employment law, said: "In the summer of 1992 the revenue and benefit service within Brent were facing a crisis. They were inefficient in terms of the service they were pro-

viding for the public and in terms of collecting the revenues which were essential if Brent was to provide a total quality service."

The benefit service, which administered housing benefit to those in need, was in a shambles, she said. "A service which was supposed to make the plight of the poorest people in Brent better was actually making their situation worse," she said.

When the Conservatives took over, however, they introduced reforms that worked. "Within two years, far from being ashamed of its revenues and benefits service, Brent had achieved a charter mark for excellence in 1994," she said.

Some half dozen representatives of the trade union Unison sat behind Ms Booth in their public seating, muttering occasionally under their breath. "The transformation of the service was only achieved

after a radical restructure of the entire system," Ms Booth said. "A root-and-branch reform carried through with a determination to ensure that Brent would never again find itself in the shameful position it had been in 1992."

The number of staff was reduced from 340 to 251 in the finance department with 55 employees claiming unfair dismissal. Forty-one cited racial discrimination and 26 sexual discrimination. Several also complained that they had been made redundant because of their membership of trade unions.

Her comments were all too much for one of the trade union officials observing the proceedings for Unison. Mike Cusance, 38, said: "I'm sure Cherie Blair can pick and choose what job she wants. I simply cannot understand how the wife of the Labour leader can take a job representing a Tory employer

which is sacking workers." Mr Cusance, a librarian, had a particular interest in the hearing. He was made redundant in the reorganisation programme.

Ms Booth declined to comment on her new-found role as champion of the Brent Conservatives but a spokesman for the Labour Party said that she was just doing her job.

The 55 employees, who are black and Asian, claim they lost their jobs because of their race or sex. Unison said their costs for the hearing could be up to £500,000. Brent council declined to comment on the fee being paid to Ms Booth, who is reputed to earn £200,000 a year.

At the start of the hearing Marjorie Don, the chairman of the tribunal, scolded Ms Booth for moving tables and chairs on her own. "Let a big strong man do that," she said. Ms Booth did not laugh. Everyone else did.



Cherie Booth arriving yesterday at the industrial tribunal in London

Mother's fire death linked to 11 other blazes

By Paul Wilkinson

THE death of a woman after an arson attack in West Yorkshire has been linked to 11 other fires. Detectives said yesterday that the fire that led to the death of Janet Roberts, 44, a mother of eight, was connected to incidents in two neighbouring communities over the past 15 months.

They said that the fire-raiser could strike again and that lives could be at risk in Ilkley, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, where Mrs Roberts lived, and Mixenden, less than half a mile away.

John Appleby, who lives near Mrs Roberts's house, said: "Until this person is caught everyone is a suspect. People cannot rest at night. They keep their doors and windows locked all the time." A woman aged 73, who asked not to be named, said: "Everyone is afraid. It is frightening to think that your neighbour could be responsible."

Mrs Roberts died in hospital on August 3, 11 days after she jumped from her bedroom window. She had suffered burns and injuries in the fall. The arsonist had set fire to petrol thrown at the front door as she slept upstairs with her husband. Her four youngest children and a grandchild were also in the house. The death is being treated as murder.

No motive has emerged for the attacks, but police are considering the possibility of a grudge. One house in Ilkley has been attacked five times and another in Mixenden has been set alight three times. Both are occupied by friends of Mrs Roberts.

Most of the attacks have caused minor damage while the occupants were out, but in July last year a family of four had to flee their home after a dustbin full of burning material was pushed against their front door as they slept.

In the worst of the five attacks on the Ilkley house, the ground floor was gutted while the occupants were out. The family has now moved away.

Detective Chief Inspector Howard Crowther, of Halifax police, said: "This person has killed once. I am worried that it could happen again. They are entirely reckless about the threats to the lives of adults and even young children. I have no doubt that the person who killed Mrs Roberts will continue to start fires."

A man was arrested last Wednesday in connection with her death but was released shortly afterwards without charge. Mr Crowther yesterday appealed for anyone who might have seen any of the fires to contact his officers.

Hundreds of bombs washed up on beaches

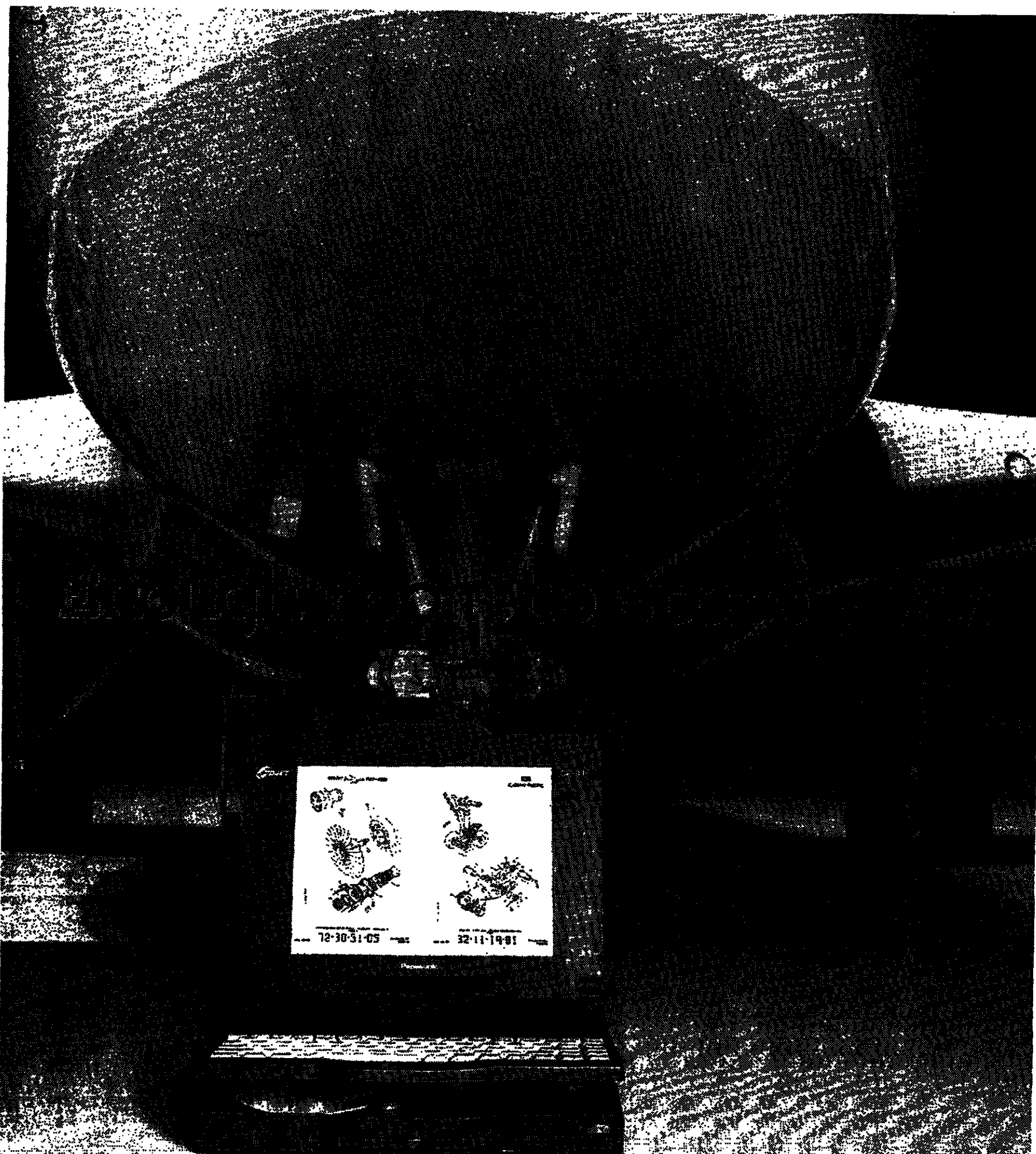
By Gillian Bowditch

MORE than 500 bombs have been washed up on some of Scotland's most popular beaches in the past few days. Strathclyde Police are urging people to avoid the beaches and on no account handle the devices, some dating from the Second World War, which contain phosphorus.

Local authorities in the areas have started a clean-up campaign with police and fire departments. The bombs are yellowish brown and about 9in long and 3in wide. They look like discarded paint rollers.

Hundreds have been found at Arran, Millport, Cumbrae, Ardshean, Saltcoats, Stevenston and Carradale. The bombs are believed to be from surplus supplies dumped in the sea by the Ministry of Defence over 70 years. Scientists say at least a million tonnes of bombs and chemical weapons were dumped in Beauforts Dyke, an underwater trench.

British Gas has recently started exploratory drilling in the area. It says it has surveyed the area thoroughly and that drilling is taking place some distance from the dumping site.



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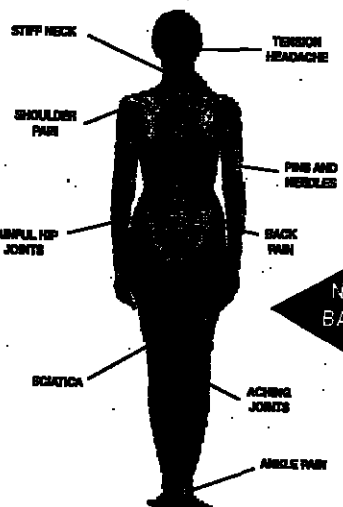
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Even as prime minister, he escaped as often as possible to the riverside estate of his ancestors

Douglas-Home: a leader by destiny, a laird at heart

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

IF EVER a man died close to his roots, it was Lord Home of the Hirsel. The life peerage he accepted after his brief prime ministerial career was named after the 20,000-acre estate at Coldstream on the banks of the Tweed that had been the seat of the earls of Home since 1611 and which was the place Alec Douglas-Home loved most.

Even when prime minister, he would escape there as often as possible to be near the salmon and the pheasant. Lord Home was loved by all who worked on the estate, according to local reports yesterday, and enjoyed the reputation of a perfect gentleman.

In retirement, he retreated there to follow the countryman's pursuits of bird and butterfly watching. He and his family recorded more than 160 species of birds on the estate.

The man who accompanied Chamberlain to meet Hitler at Munich in 1938 was never anything other than a



Plunged into limelight as Chamberlain's aide and trained for political battle on the playing fields of Eton, Douglas-Home was nevertheless happiest at his Scottish seat

Scottish laird, even if his background was glossed with an Eton education. In his garden, he could relax under an ancient sycamore said to have been planted to commemorate the Scottish defeat at Flodden. When the 14th

Earl of Home laid down his ancient title in 1963 to fill the breach left by the ailing Harold Macmillan, he was the first man since the Marquess of Salisbury in 1895 to travel directly from the House of Lords to 10

Downing Street. He was an exotic creature, even by the standards of his immediate predecessor, who was in essence an aristocratic Edwardian who pretended to ordinariness and whose family had dirtied their hands

with commerce. Sir Alec Douglas-Home never pretended to be anything other than what he was, a hereditary landowner whose money, such as it was, was the oldest of old. The debatable lands of the Scottish

border were controlled, not by Highland clans but by powerful warring families — Hamilton, Home and Douglas chief among them — all happy to cut each other's throats for the chance of a hand on the Scottish throne.

In brief interludes between internecine strife, they intermarried.

The Homes are easily traceable to the late 13th century, when the Scottish king William the Lion granted them a castle. They were

around at the time in which the film *Braveheart* is set, but it is as well not to explore too deeply on which side of the Border the loyalties of the great lowland families of those days lay.

Sir Alexander Home, a direct ancestor, was created Scottish ambassador to England in 1459. The third Lord Home commanded the Scottish van at Flodden in 1513, and was one of the few Scots commanders to survive a terrible slaughter at English hands, only a few bloody miles from the Hirsel.

Lord Home also claimed among his ancestors, although perhaps not in the most direct line, the greatest figure of the 18th-century Scottish Enlightenment, the philosopher David Hume, who with his contemporary Adam Smith laid the intellectual foundations of the political creed embraced by Baroness Thatcher.

Tributes, page 1
Magnus Linklater and
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Obituary, page 21

Failing schools prompt 'sweep' by inspectors

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INSPECTORS are to check every school in two London boroughs after one in three was found to be failing.

Ofted, the school inspection agency, said urban problems were no excuse for the low standards seen by its staff in Lambeth and Waltham Forest.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said all the unspected schools in both boroughs, including those that have opted out of council control, would be visited during 1996. The urgent checks were necessary because five of the 16 schools inspected in Lambeth, south London, and four out of 12 in Waltham Forest, northeast London, were failing to give pupils an acceptable standard of education.

At one Lambeth-controlled

Governors braced for more cuts

By IAN MURRAY

SCHOOLS have been warned they face further cuts in spending after an attempt to win an increase in funding appeared to fail yesterday. Council leaders, who met John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, to discuss local authority grants for next year, came away convinced that their claim for a 2.2 per cent increase had been rejected by the Treasury.

Educational authorities have written to all school governors saying that the year ahead is likely to be even bleaker than the present one, which saw a £600 million shortfall in budgets and a 2.2 per cent reduction in the amount of money spent on each child of compulsory school age.

Boarding sector seeks royal fillip

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BOARDING schools are hoping that Prince William will undo the damage done to their image by his father's well-publicised memories of an unhappy childhood at Gordonstoun in the 1960s.

The schools launched a public relations offensive yesterday to try to reverse a steady decline in enrolments. Pupil numbers have dropped 20 per cent in a decade.

Dick Davison, deputy director of the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), said boarding had suffered because of a "handful of well-known but disaffected former pupils" whose experiences did not reflect the changes that had taken place in recent years. "Prince Charles is a prominent but typical example. There has been no opportunity yet to ask Prince William his view of boarding, but it is probably very different from his father's." Prince William joined Eton this term.

An ISIS survey of 5,000 parents found that one in three believed that sending their

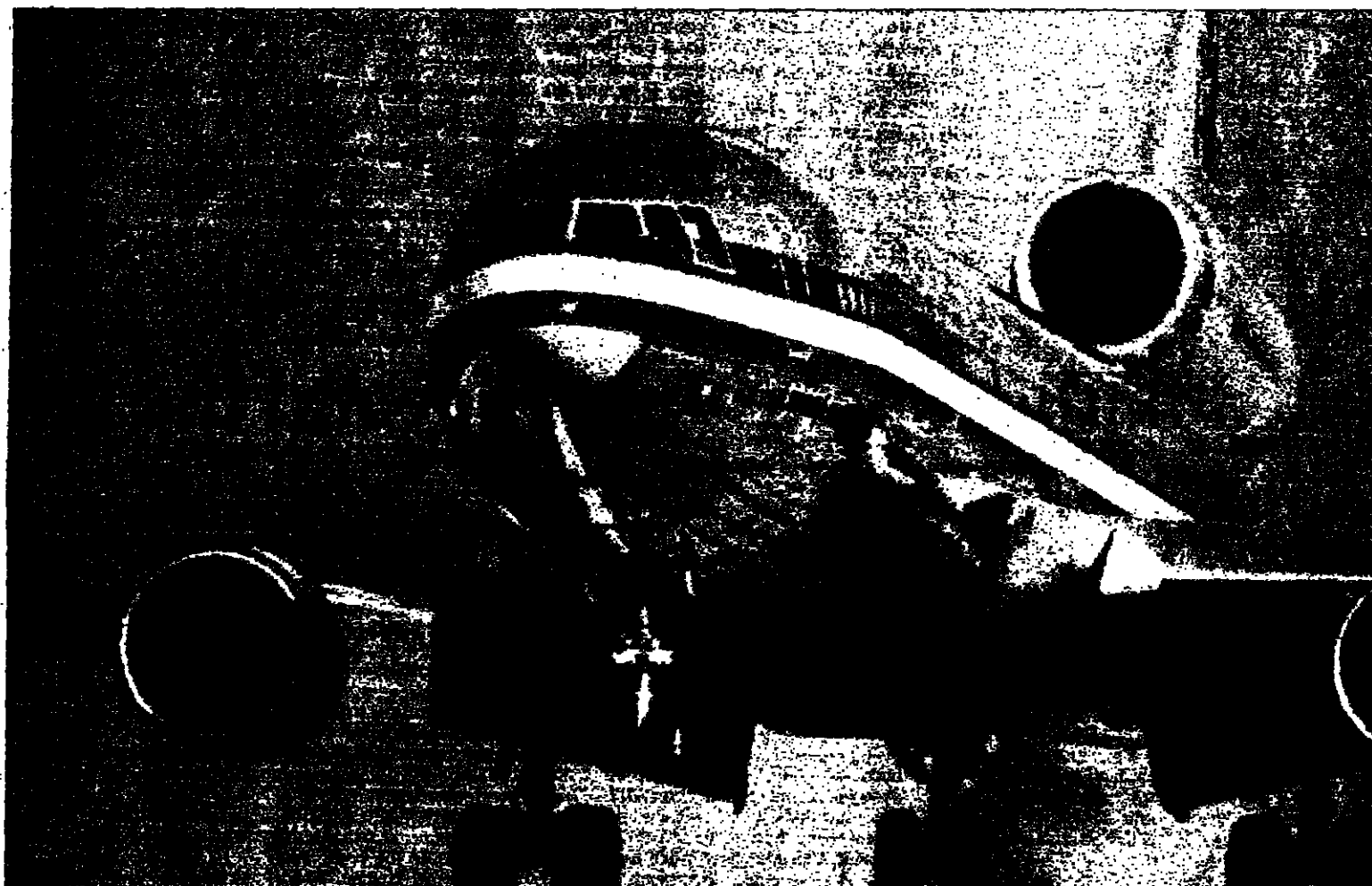
children to boarding school led to a closer relationship. Fewer than one in ten felt they were more distant. Nearly nine in ten parents took the child's views into account before choosing a boarding school.

Parents cited the extra-curricular benefits of boarding, particularly the maturity and independence it gave their children, more often than academic excellence as the reason for their choice. A quarter of the parents had not been boarders themselves.

Mr Davison said: "This survey should nail for ever the myth that boarding parents are selfish egotists who cannot wait to hand over their responsibility to others."

Half of the boarders covered by the survey spent four or more nights at home during terms, in addition to half-term. Some telephoned home several times a week, but only one boarder in nine wrote every week and one parent in eight never wrote.

Leading article, page 19



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She said to me: 'You don't know him, there's nothing he wouldn't do, even murder'

Mother-in-law says softly spoken West scared Rosemary

By RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

ROSEMARY WEST thought that her future husband was capable of anything, including murder, her mother told Winchester Crown Court yesterday. A frail-looking and grey-haired Daisy Letts, 76, was the first prosecution witness in the case against her 41-year-old daughter who is accused of ten murders.

Mrs Letts told how Frederick West called at her home 25 years ago to get Rosemary to return to live with him after she had left him during a domestic dispute. During a doorstep confrontation at Mrs Letts' home in Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, she told how her daughter turned to her and said: "You don't know, you don't know him. There is nothing he would not do." "I thought, I am almost sure that she said 'even murder' or something of that expression," Mrs Letts said.

Although she appeared frightened of him, her daughter agreed to return with the softly spoken West. "I did not want her to go back with Fred but Fred was saying, 'Come along Rosie, come home'."

Rosemary West pleads not guilty to murdering 10 young women and girls, including her own daughter. The alleged victims are: Charmaine West, eight; Heather West, 16; Shirley Ann Robinson, Shirley Hubbard, Therese Siegenhaler, Linda Gough, Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Partington, Juanita Mott and Alison Chambers.

Mrs Letts told the jury that both she and her husband William, now dead, had never liked or trusted West, who first met them when he was 25. He was ten years older than their

daughter. He already had two children, Charmaine and Anne-Marie. Mrs Letts believed him to be their daughter's first boyfriend.

She said: "He said he had a hotel and a caravan site in Scotland." Mrs Letts later discovered that her daughter had set up home with West in a caravan in Herefordshire. Under cross-examination from Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mrs West, Mrs Letts admitted her husband had done everything in his power to break up their daughter's relationship with West. Mr

Rosemary West



TRIAL

Letts had once threatened West and locked his daughter in her room to prevent her from seeing him, she said.

Mr Ferguson asked: "Frederick West, this older man. You certainly did not like him, Mrs Letts?" She replied: "No sir. He used to boast and tell lies." Mr Ferguson said: "Can you remember him saying something like this to Rose, that if she did not come back to him within 10 minutes she would find her place in his bed would be occupied by another woman?" Mrs Letts said: "He may have said such things. He

used to talk fast and I could not always catch what he said. He talked very quickly and very quietly."

Mr and Mrs Letts even put their daughter into care to keep her away from West but when she became 16 she was free to join him. Their daughter became pregnant with her first daughter, Heather, but Mrs Letts did not learn of the child's existence until four months after she was born.

Mrs Letts said that Heather, Charmaine and Anne-Marie all appeared to be well cared for. However, she had once called at her daughter's home in Midland Road, Gloucester, to find Charmaine alone in the flat. It was the last time she saw her.

The prosecution claims that Mrs West, a mother of seven, murdered Charmaine, seven, because she disliked the child and could not control her. When Mrs Letts asked her daughter what had happened to Charmaine she was told that the child had returned to live with her natural mother, Rena Costello.

In 1994 the girl's remains were discovered buried under the Wests' former home in Midland Road. Mrs Costello's body was also found buried in a field, but it is not alleged that Mrs West was responsible.

Mrs West's older sister, Glenys Tyler, said that both she and her mother eventually became worried about Charmaine. "As time went by it concerned me that we never heard anything more of her. Mum and I discussed whether to get a private detective but we never did." Neither Mrs Letts nor Mrs Tyler looked at Rosemary West as they gave



Rosemary West listening from the dock as her mother Daisy Letts, 76, gives evidence at the trial yesterday

evidence from the witness box yesterday. Mrs West started at them from the dock of number three court some 30ft away. Mrs Tyler told the court how her younger sister struggled to look after her stepdaughters, particularly Charmaine. The child often wet the bed and this "annoyed and irritated" her sister. Under cross-examination she said she was not close to her sister and regarded her as "childish" during her teens. Mrs Tyler denied that West had made sexual advances to her but she told how

he gave her a lift in his van to Gloucester on one occasion and said that he and Rosemary had an open marriage. He had asked whether she had ever thought of trying an open relationship. It was suggested, no more than that. She said she did not like the "smutty" conversation which he had initiated.

Mrs Tyler said she was not surprised when her sister said that Heather, allegedly the Wests' final murder victim, had left home. "My daughter spoke to Heather and Heather

told her that as soon as she was 16 she would leave home." Mrs Tyler was asked if Frederick West showed embarrassment or pleasure when he said Shirley Robinson was pregnant with his child. She replied: "It was certainly not something he tried to hide." She was appalled at the news.

Questioned by Mr Ferguson, Mrs Tyler agreed that she had not been close to her younger sister. Rosemary was closer to her younger brothers. She also agreed that she did not "take" to her sister's com-

panion, and later her husband, Frederick West. Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, earlier told the jury that Mrs West consistently lied to police and must have been aware of the killings, dismembering and concealment of bodies taking place at Cromwell Street, the couple's last home in Gloucester. She was also involved with her husband in enticing and encouraging at least a number of the victims to the house, he said.

The trial continues.

Girl 'was chastised with a spoon'

THE jury was told how Rosemary West taught her stepdaughter Charmaine "a lesson" by tying her hands behind her back, making her stand on a chair and menacing her with a large wooden spoon.

A neighbour of the Wests at Midland Road, Gloucester, said the punishment had been witnessed by her own young daughter, who was Charmaine's best friend. Shirley Giles said that her daughter had been very upset at what she had seen. The child told her that Rosemary West was standing by the chair with a wooden spoon as if to snack Charmaine.

Mrs Giles said: "My daughter Tracey went down to borrow some milk one morning. She came back very very distressed. I spoke to Mrs West about it who told me that Charmaine had been naughty and she was going to teach her a lesson, the difference between right and wrong."

"She [Mrs West] said Charmaine was very wilful and that it was getting her down." Mrs West also told her neighbour that she had been in touch with Charmaine's natural mother and the child would go and live with her. Mrs Giles said her neighbour ruled her young family with "a steel rod".

Charmaine West's body was discovered in a shallow grave beneath the kitchen of 25 Midland Road in April 1994. On a subsequent visit to the house after having moved to Cinderford, Mrs Giles was told by the defendant that her stepdaughter had gone to live with her real mother "and bloody good riddance," said Mrs West. "Tracey was very upset about it," said Mrs Giles. Frederick West at that time was serving a jail sentence, she told the court.

Mutilated bodies spoke 'from beyond the grave' of terrible crimes

By BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

THE alleged victims of Rosemary West spoke "from beyond the grave" of the terrible circumstances in which they met their end at 25 Cromwell Street, the jury at Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

There was also chilling evidence of how all but one of the ten young women who died suffered mutilation. Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, did not say whether this had taken place before or after death. Every set of remains had bones missing, he told the jury. However, one or both kneecaps had been removed from seven of the victims and another was found

in a makeshift grave without a shoulder blade. "Fingers could well have been removed, rendering the task of identification more difficult... why, though, is one or both kneecaps missing? The only answer is mutilation," said Mr Leveson.

He asked the jury on the second full day of the trial at Winchester to remember how all but two of the bodies had been found with masking tape and bindings, a clear indication of sexual abuse before death. Each girl had been naked at the time of death.

"Graphic illustrations come from Lynda Gough with the ring mask of adhesive tape. Shirley Hubbard with that terrible mask. Juanita Mott with the clothes line

intertwined about her limbs. Alison Chambers with the belt around the skull, and there are others, and they speak from the grave as to what happened to them," Mr Leveson said.

He said forensic science evidence ruled out the possibility that the victims had been buried elsewhere from the place where they were found after death, allowed to decompose and then moved to Cromwell Street. Dark soil found near their graves was "due to the dissolution of the soft tissues of the body into the earth and indicates that at the very least considerable quantities of flesh, muscle and other tissue had originally been present. Consider how much time it must have taken after death to

deal with the remains, dismember the bodies, dig the hole, fill over the remains, dispose of the excess fill, the clothing and belongings of the victims, tidy up and clear up the mess not merely around the cellar," Mr Leveson told the jury. Perhaps the dismemberment had taken place after polythene sheeting had been laid on the floor, perhaps it was carried out in the bath, he continued.

"But, even assuming Rosemary West did not participate in the disposal and hiding of the bodies, she must have known it was going on. Remember where the remains were found: underneath what became a bathroom - five in the cellar, two outside the back door and right by the kitchen. From

these facts alone, the only conclusion is that she had been fully involved," he said.

Mr Leveson told the jury that the Crown could not say how any of the alleged victims was attacked, the full extent of any force used or the precise cause of death. "With only skeletal remains we do not know if they were strangled or suffocated. We cannot even say they were not stabbed in such a way as not to mark any of the bones which were recovered. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that you will have no difficulty whatsoever in concluding that each of these girls was subject to unlawful force which caused death."

It was the Crown's case that Rosemary and Frederick West

were "in it together". Seven victims - Linda Gough, Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Partington, Therese Siegenhaler, Shirley Hubbard, Juanita Mott and Alison Chambers - met their death at the place where they were found; 25 Cromwell Street. "Rosemary West had a complete run of the place that each was murdered, that each body was dismembered and that each body was concealed," he said. "It must have been Rosemary who was involved in enticing and encouraging at the very least a number of the victims to Cromwell Street."

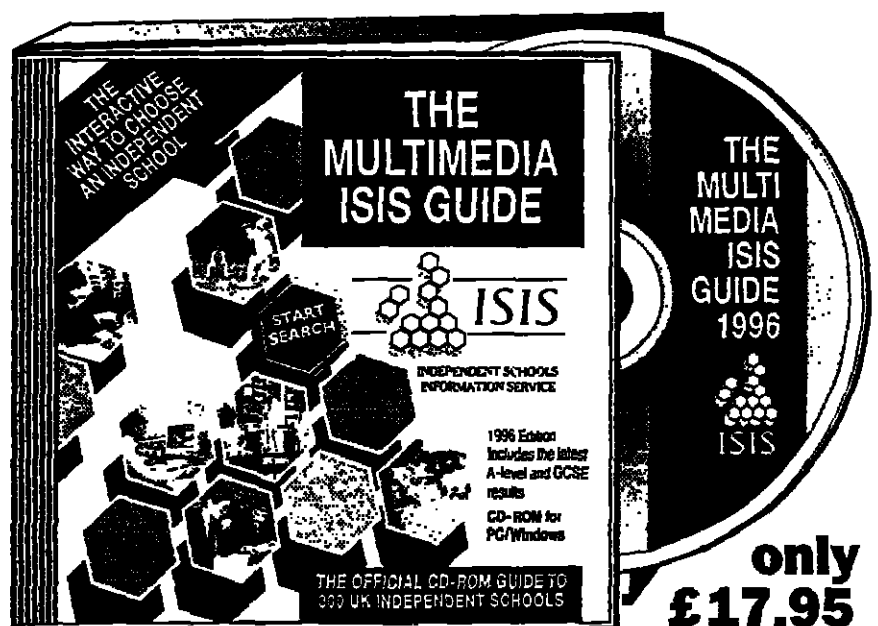
"Each of those seven girls had been the subject of sexual abuse and violence: the bindings, the mask, the absence of clothes all make it clear that considerable

time and effort were involved. This was all at Cromwell Street not just for a few moments and not just at the behest of Frederick West. If, as we submit, the motive for the killings is some perverted sexual pleasure or to prevent complaints to the police, that involves Rosemary West just as much as Frederick. All the reasons for justifying the conclusion that the girls had been the subject of joint sexual abuse and violence apply equally to her as to him."

"Between 1971 and 1987, ten dead bodies - all at Mrs West's homes. The Crown submits that on the evidence you can and will be sure that Rosemary Pauline West is guilty of murder in relation to each girl."

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Lawyers sheltered from censure on courtroom action

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS will be immune from censure over their courtroom performance under the profession's new complaints machinery, due to be approved by the Bar Council on Saturday.

The Bar scheme will give the public a formal route to register dissatisfaction about poor service generally by barristers, and to obtain up to £2,000 compensation. But it will specifically exclude advocacy in court, in line with the Bar's statutory immunity which protects barristers from being sued for negligence over presentation of a case.

The proposal to preserve the advocacy immunity in the new complaints scheme, even for complaints of poor performance rather than actual negligence, goes against a report last year by Lord Alexander of Weald, QC, the former Bar chairman. In his review of standards at the Bar, Lord Alexander proposed a complaints scheme that would have allowed barristers to be sued over shoddy work, including court presentation.

There is growing support for abolition of the immunity. Yesterday a senior sheriff questioned the principle in Scottish law. Sheriff Principal Gordon Nicholson, QC, dismissed an appeal in a claim for £150,000 brought against Christopher Haddow, QC. He said that he was bound by the law, dating from a ruling in 1876, but that he had some sympathy with the man bringing the claim, Thomas Crooks.

The Sheriff said the 1876 decision should be reviewed "to see if it properly reflects what ought to be the position". Earlier this year John Powell, QC, an expert on professional negligence, wrote in the Bar Council magazine: "Barristers' immunity is exceptional and as a profession we do not need it. If it is to be retained, it must be justified anew and clearly defined." He said that the immunity "taints the profession's public standing relative to others, especially doctors".

Michael Barnes, the legal services ombudsman, who has criticised the immunity for obstructing his investigation of complaints, said: "It is very unsatisfactory that the Bar is not allowing people to complain over shoddy work in court. If a complaint is that the barrister failed to call a witness or did not argue a point correctly, then I cannot investigate. It falls squarely within the immunity. It is over the fact that they were offensive, or drunk, then I will look into it. But the position is still undefined and subject to challenge in the courts."



Coltrane: Cracker star

News at Ten move attacked

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

ITV will breach its broadcasting licence if it goes ahead with plans to delay News at Ten and shows the hit drama Cracker instead, broadcasting watchdogs have said.

The Independent Television Commission said that the decision to move the news programme to 10.15pm next Monday would mean that the second half of the programme would fall outside the "peak-time" period of 6.30pm to 10.30pm, in contravention of specific licence agreements held by the regional ITV companies. It would grant approval for it to be moved only in exceptional circumstances.

A spokeswoman for ITV could not explain why the TV companies had not sought prior approval. The 75-minute episode of Cracker, starring Robbie Coltrane and written by Jimmy McGovern, marks the first episode of the final series of the programme.

Scotland spends £8bn more than it raises in tax

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government published figures yesterday which show that Scotland is about £8 billion in the red in tax terms, with the country spending £1,500 more a year than it raises for every adult and child north of the border.

The figures show that the Government spends £5,530 per head of population in Scotland compared with £4,870 for Britain as a whole, but they also show that the Scots pay more tax. Taxes raised in Scotland, excluding North Sea oil revenues, amount to £3,975 per head compared with £3,950 for Britain as a whole.

The figures were labelled "a propaganda exercise" by the Scottish National Party, which has always maintained that Scotland can easily afford independence and would be better off with an independent economy.

John Swinney, SNP Treasury spokesman, said: "Scotland is a wealthy country, richer than Finland and on a par with Sweden, and would thrive with the economic benefits of independence in Europe."

Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, claimed that the figures had been published to boost the Conservatives on the eve of their conference. He also criticised the use of Scottish Office civil servants in devising figures that he said were for party political purposes.

The figures show that government spending in Scotland was £28.4 billion in 1993-94, the equivalent of 10 per cent of the UK budget. The

Scottish Office notes that Scotland's population is only 8.8 per cent of the British total. Revenues, excluding tax from North Sea oil, were £20.4 billion, the equivalent of 8.9 per cent of total UK revenues. The Scottish Office said the extent to which government spending in Scotland exceeds tax revenues raised in Scotland, was £8 billion, excluding North Sea revenues and privatisation proceeds. That is the equivalent of 15 per cent of Scottish gross domestic product, whereas for the UK as a whole the ratio is 8.5 per cent.

Mr Swinney said that the report included the first government admission that the Scots paid more tax than the rest of Britain and he said in a year when the UK deficit increased by 25 per cent the figures showed that the Scottish deficit fell.

He said the figures were unreliable and out of date. "The differential effects of the recession means that Scotland's position has strengthened considerably in recent years," he said.

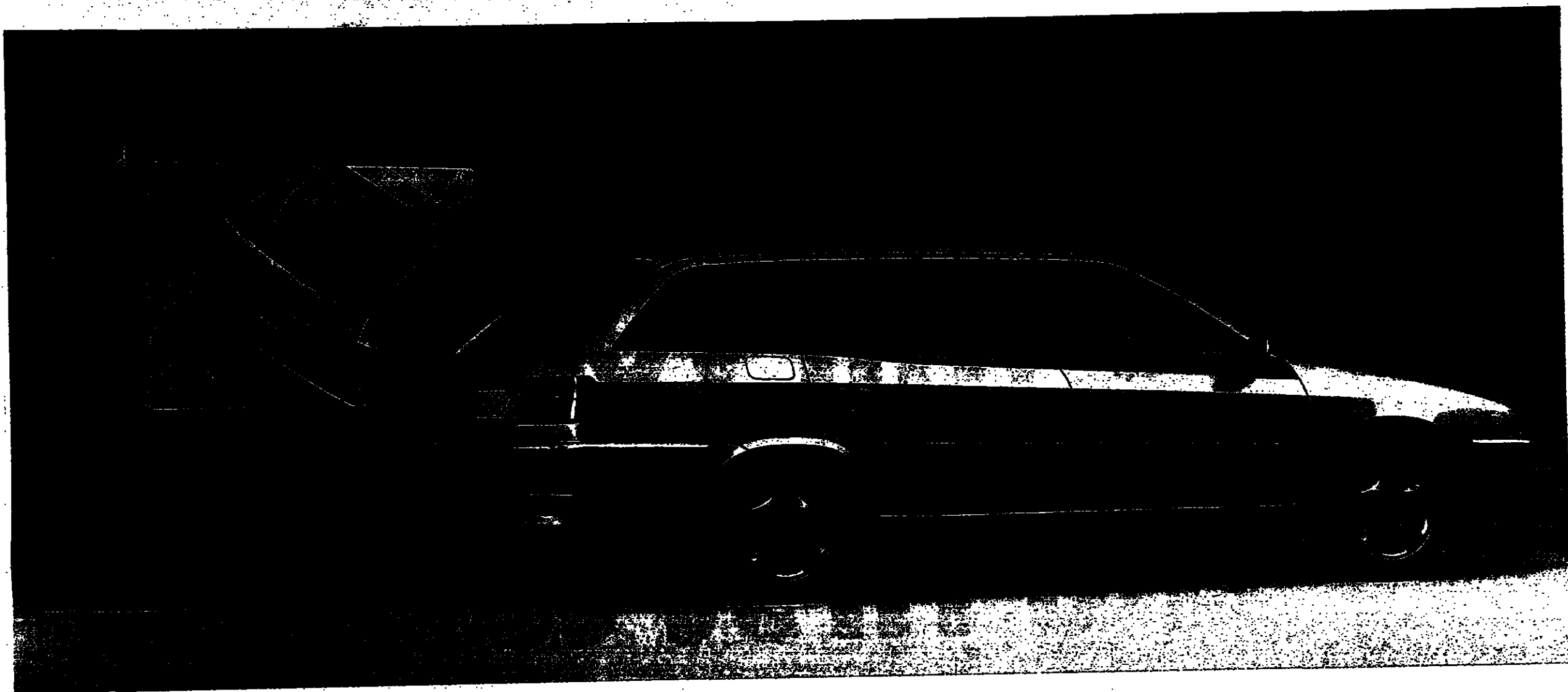




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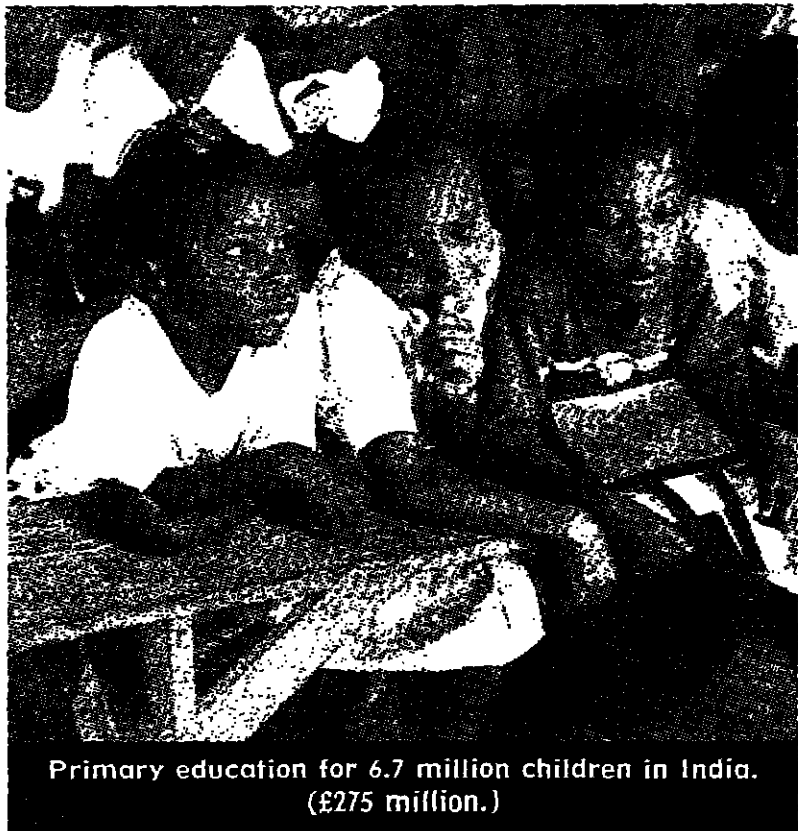
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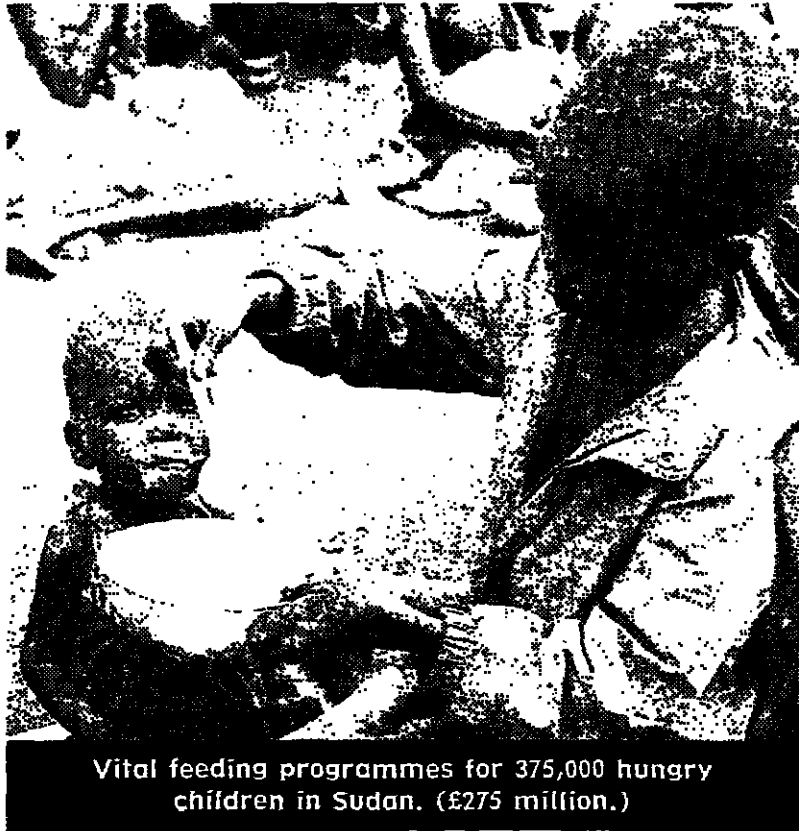
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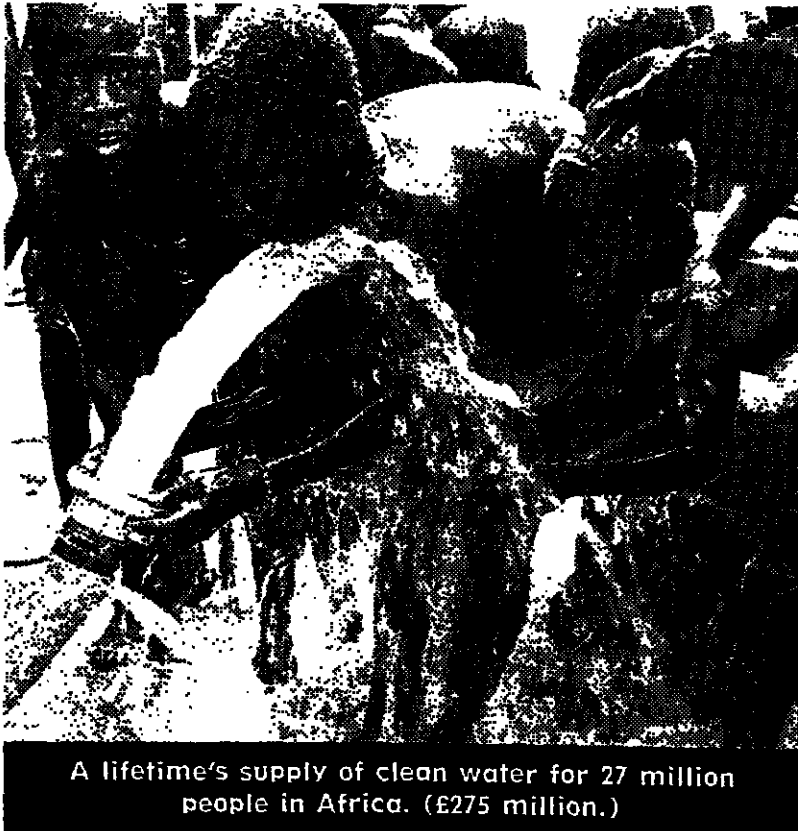
Mr. Clarke, if you reduce overseas aid by £275 million, where will you make the first cut?



Primary education for 6.7 million children in India. (£275 million.)



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Yesterday's Harris Poll indicates that 79% of the public want aid to be maintained or increased.

We hope they express their feelings by writing to their MP and to you at Her Majesty's Treasury, Parliament Street, London SW1.

Do you really care so little about the people of the Third World Mr. Clarke? Or is this just an attempt to cut taxes?

Activists de

Howarth
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or new I

Rulebook thro

Labour launch
recruitment drive
at conference

Activists demand right-wing riposte against party defector

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY activists arrived at Blackpool station last night in defiant mood, determined that Alan Howarth's defection would not ruin their annual conference. Not even the news that their former leader, Lord Home of the Hirsel, had died could distract them from their anger.

After months of despondency about their dismal poll results, the party workers are suddenly galvanised. Most want revenge against Mr Howarth in the form of a package of right-wing poli-

cies, including tax cuts and crackdowns on benefit scroungers.

"Sir Alec Douglas-Home was a typical example of what this party stands for, unlike vermin like Howarth," Sheila Meller, 53, a beautician from Birmingham, said. "He was dignified, considerate, loyal and firm — no spin doctoring, false promises or soundbites like Mr Blair's Labour."

"Mr Major was really beginning to turn this party round. Our MPs are much older than Labour's and we only need a couple of them to die and we will have a general election on our

hands. We are still too weak to fight Labour yet." She was joined by Malcolm Mulhern, from Eastwood in Strathclyde, and others sporting "Save Alastair Campbell" badges, which referred to the loathed Labour spin doctor. Mr Mulhern said: "That man Howarth is in no man's land, completely isolated. How would you like it if a family member, that you have bought up and nurtured, turned round and spat in your face the moment things get tough. Labour won't adopt him. He was a one-day wonder for them."

While Mr Howarth is the conference villain, Mr Redwood,

who merely challenged the Prime Minister for his job, is now the conference darling, eclipsing all the Michaels, Portillo, Heseltine and Howard. Everyone had circled his fringe speeches in their guide.

Party agents had arrived earlier for their AGM in the afternoon. After holding a minute's silence for Lord Home's death and placing a black ribbon over his photograph on the Imperial Hotel's bar wall, they also got down to grittier issues. Most admitted that the humiliating local elections results in May had been the low point in their careers. Many

were still smarting from having lost their seats on county councils. "We were just beginning to hope that things were going our way again this summer," one said. "John Major showed guts in the leadership election and Labour was a shambles with Mr Blair on holiday. Then this happened and you have to wonder whether Mr Major's card isn't fatally marked."

Others admitted privately that morale was still fragile and too many more "accidents like this one" would bring the Government to its knees. Another said: "They have to stop alienating

their natural middle-class voters voters and start putting money back in their pockets. Sometimes I think the people in Westminster have given up on winning a fifth term and just haven't bothered to tell the foot-troops." Most insisted that education must be given a higher priority.

Stewart Lister, agent for Luton North, could only talk of Mr Howarth. "Good riddance to bad rubbish. There is no way we are hurrying too far to the Right. If anything, Mr Major is bending over backwards to accommodate the Left with his new Cabinet and we need to get much tougher on

Europe, crime and benefit fiddlers," he said. Liz Vaughan, the agent for Scarborough, said: "Mr Howarth's defection will stiffen our backbone. It's outrageous that he doesn't have the decency to go for a by-election." Other agents said they would swamp the constituency at election time to ensure the Tories retained the seat.

Tony Slater, agent for Tiverton and Honiton, in the West Country where only one Tory council remains, said: "This is John Major's last chance before an election to woo the country with a raft of new policies. It's vital to get this week right."

Howarth's choice was 'hypocrisy or new Labour'

ALAN HOWARTH talks like a man suddenly freed. The conflicts of loyalty that he has faced over the past year or more have been resolved. He has escaped, in the most dramatic way possible, from the Tory party and is now at the first, happy stage of excitement about what he describes, in correct Blairite language, as the new Labour Party.

All the problems of finding a winnable Labour seat are for the future. For the moment, at least, there is just a sense of personal rebirth. Speaking yesterday to *The Times*, he described a parallel process of increasing disillusionment with the Tory party and increasing attraction to Labour.

He is even relaxed about the attacks aimed at him by senior Tories since Saturday evening. He regards Brian Mawhinney's accusation of being eccentric almost as a badge of honour. "It is an interesting choice of term, and perfectly right in its original use as meaning off-centre and out of the conventional range. There was a time when I was well within the mainstream of the Conservative Party. But the party has tended so far to the Right that I have been marginalised. It is a nice question, whether I was excluded from the Tory party or whether I excluded myself."

Mr Howarth is unrepentant over the timing of his an-

Alan Howarth tells Peter Riddell how disillusionment with the Tories and an "occasional flutter of interest" in Labour grew into a conviction he could not ignore

nouncement, creating maximum impact on the eve of the Tory conference. He acknowledges the hurt to old friends, but says it would have been "hypocritical" for him to go to Blackpool where he was due to speak in a fringe debate today.

"I was clearly no longer a Conservative, and it would have been a false and dishonest thing to have done. When I came to a decision, I thought I should say so." He denies that any understanding has been reached with Labour about help in obtaining a new seat. He talks, somewhat disingenuously, as merely being the latest of many people on the first rung of the Labour ladder, while acknowledging that local parties resent guidance from the centre on favoured candidates.

His decision has mystified many of his old allies on the Tory Left. They sympathise with many of his worries but argue that his influence has increased following John Major's re-election as leader and the Cabinet reshuffle in July. He believes that these events have made no difference. Mr Major has, he argues, allowed

the advance of the "aggressive ideological Right" to happen. "He might not have wished it to happen. But he is a prisoner of the Right."

Mr Howarth believes Mr Major had an "incomparable" opportunity in July to define his vision after his authority was renewed with his re-election when he addressed the party at the QE2 centre. He says he was disappointed by Mr Major's promises to give more advantages to the well-off with pledges about inheritance and capital gains tax when the poor were losing part of their unemployment benefit, and by his general desire to placate the Right.

His disillusionment has built up steadily since the election. He left the Government in April 1992 in part because of his disagreement with the way the expansion of higher education was working. He concluded that he would not have "substantial influence on the course of government at a senior level and it would be better to come out and find a new independence." His doubts resulted from a



Alan Howarth at home in Warwickshire yesterday, where he accused John Major of allowing an advance of the aggressive ideological Right

succession of incidents which created "an occasional flutter of interest in joining Labour", such as the attacks on single mothers at the 1993 Tory conference; the Government's attitude to the freedom of information Bill which he backed; ministers' opposition to the Bill on rights for the disabled; and, in the last session, by the measure introducing the jobseeker's allowance. His worries built up cumulatively and were reinforced

by a refusal of ministers to respond or even to listen to his concerns. Hence his complaint about "the arrogance of power". He argues that the One Nation Tories are fighting a rear-guard action against the Right. Dismissing parallels with the SDP defectors in 1981, who have seen Labour come full circle to their position then, Mr Howarth believes it will take "a very long time indeed" for these trends to be reversed — too long he implies

for someone of his age. After Labour has won the next election, the Right will capture the party. "The pendulum will eventually swing back, but I don't anticipate it in my political lifetime". Throughout, Mr Howarth emphasises the attractions of the new Labour Party. In place of discarded champions such as Kenneth Clarke, he talks with warmth about Gordon Brown, who is "very tough-minded in the development of

economic policy", and John Prescott, with his One Nation appeal on Friday. Seeing no inconsistency as a former member of the free-market No Turning Back group, Mr Howarth talks about how Labour has changed. He was struck by the reception for Tony Blair's speech a week ago which, he says, showed that the heart of the conference was with him. The voices of "old" Labour — those who preach the politics of social

division and class antagonism and who favour old style planning — are "a very rapidly diminishing minority".

Mr Howarth realises that it is never going to be the same again. Once the media interest has subsided, the warmth of his welcome by an unfamiliar new party may fade. The fate of MPs who cross the floor is generally bleak. But, for the moment, he has the enthusiasm of the convert to sustain him.

Rulebook threatens MP's future

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

ALAN HOWARTH might not be allowed to stand as a parliamentary candidate for Labour at the next election, according to Labour Party rules.

Labour's constitution says that all prospective parliamentary candidates must have been a member of the party for at least two years. At the next election — likely to be in April 1997 — Mr Howarth will have been a member for only 17 months.

However, Labour officials said last night that the party's National Executive Committee had the power to override the usual rules in the "interests of the party" and could allow Mr Howarth to become a candidate. The rules applied to prospective parliamentary candi-

dates, not sitting Labour MPs such as Mr Howarth.

According to rule 4A.9 of the Labour constitution, "a person may not be eligible for nomination or selection as a parliamentary candidate by a constituency party and a candidate may not be endorsed by the NEC unless the person concerned has been an individual member of the party in accordance with the membership rules for at least two years". However, rule 4A.6 says: "The normal procedure may be dispensed with by the NEC where no valid nominations are received, or when an emergency arises or when the NEC are of the opinion that the interests of the party demand the suspension of the procedure laid down

in this section." Labour officials said that the second rule allowed the NEC to waive the two-year quarantine period for certain candidates. "The two-year rule applies under normal circumstances but there is already a power for the NEC to issue a dispensation," one of the officials said.

"Should Mr Howarth apply for a seat, he will be doing so as a sitting member of Parliament, which means that the usual rules will not apply. We don't have rules that previously needed to cover a Tory MP crossing the floor."

If Mr Howarth cannot become a Labour candidate at the next election, he will have to stand down after 12 years as an MP.

Labour launches recruitment drive at conference

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR intends to capitalise on Alan Howarth's defection from the Tory party by setting up a recruitment unit at the Blackpool conference.

Leaflets and membership forms will be handed to representatives as they go into the Winter Gardens conference centre today, and Shadow Cabinet members will hold daily press briefings to hammer home the message of "One Nation Labour".

Yesterday Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, was leading Labour's attempt to attract Tory voters. "It's welcome aboard time. All we need is another two or three Tory MPs and if we can get a defector a week we will," he said.

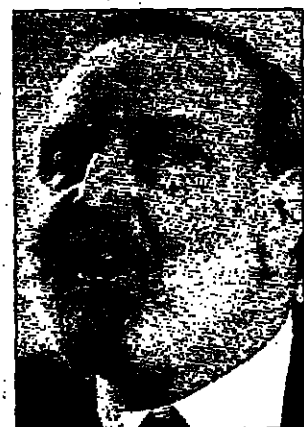
"It's open house to all Tories. We have membership forms for the Labour Party here and they're invited to fill

them in. We may have to vet Cabinet ministers more closely than other delegates, but I say to any Conservative who wants to wander down the promenade, I am here."

Labour's recruitment leaflet will focus on splits within the Tory party and attack key figures such as Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. Hundreds of copies were being printed last night, claiming that Labour is the party of the people. It is expected to argue that the Tories have moved so far to the Right that Labour is now the only party that can speak for the whole nation.

The Labour unit, manned by six people and based at the Savoy Hotel, close to the Tory conference hotels on the Blackpool promenade, will also take every opportunity to expose any rifts within the Tory party. They have scrutinised the motions submitted to the conference and unearthed 90 critical resolutions on Europe. Officials will also send copies of all ministerial speeches to Westminster for comment from Shadow Cabinet ministers.

The daily press briefings, held at the Savoy, will try to pre-empt the main speaker of the day. Today Mr Dobson will challenge Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party



Dobson: hoping for more Tory defectors

chairman, over the party's organisation and funding. He will also publish research showing that the Tories are £11.38 million in debt and company donations are down from a £2.2 million peak in 1987-88 to £900,000 in 1994-95. □ The Tory party is striving to match Labour's commitment to information technology by making conference proceedings available on the Internet. Party managers said yesterday that they aim was to reach the young "computer generation", many of whom fail to vote in elections.

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, said that the Internet service (<http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/>) would offer a "new and exciting medium for communicating with a vast audience". However, his launch of the scheme — to a largely empty eve-of-conference hall — was in stark contrast to Tony Blair's high-profile attempt last week to link Labour with the information superhighway.

Tate and Lyle cash blow to the Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives suffered a fresh eve-of-conference blow yesterday when a leading company announced that it was cutting donations to the party and giving help to Labour for the first time.

Tate and Lyle said that it was cutting its annual £25,000 donation to the Tories to £15,000, and giving £7,500 and £2,500 to the Liberal Democrats. In 1992 it gave £50,000 to the Tory election fund.

Labour was delighted by the announcement. Party sources said they hoped it would start a trend of big firms hedging their bets over political donations to take account of Labour's huge lead in the polls. Tate and Lyle said it strongly believed that political parties should be state-funded rather than have to rely for their income on big business or the unions. In taking its decision the board was said to have considered the performance of the "governing party", the changing stance of Labour and the role of the Liberal Democrats.

Tony Blair's decision to scrap Labour's Clause Four commitment to nationalisation was a main factor in the company's decision, a spokesman said.

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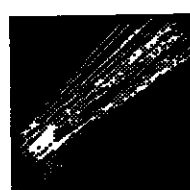
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EU tobacco subsidies condemned by minister

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH minister plashed with a senior European Community official yesterday when he claimed that Europe was undermining anti-smoking measures by subsidising the tobacco industry.

Tom Sackville, a junior Health Minister, attacked the European Union for supporting tobacco farmers in Mediterranean countries with EC subsidies worth up to £5 million a day. He said it was "ironic and unsatisfactory" that while Britain had increased the tax on tobacco every year in the Budget, some of those taxes were used to subsidise tobacco production.

"It is not a foodstuff. This is something you can't even feed to animals. It is an extreme example of the inappropriate use of taxpayers' money," he said at a conference to launch a ten-point European code against cancer after a survey showed the British were the most ignorant in Europe about how to avoid the disease.

Professor John Chamberlain, Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the Institute of Cancer Research, London,



Sackville criticised use of tax revenues

who had been invited to the conference to explain the cancer prevention code, cited figures showing that Europe is the second largest producer of cigarettes in the world after China and the largest exporter in the world with 218 billion cigarettes sold to non-EC countries in 1993.

Geoffrey Martin, head of the European Commission in Britain, accused Mr Sackville of misrepresenting the Government's policy and of overshadowing the launch of the European cancer code for party political reasons. He said the governments of the EU were working to phase out the subsidy.

"I'm concerned at the impression the minister gave in distancing himself from the policy of the UK Government. It would be ludicrous if the EU were supporting the smoking of cigarettes. The subsidies will be phased out as soon as possible but when you are dealing with areas of the Union whose principal earning power has been in agriculture it takes more than a few weeks to change things."

Tessa Jowell, a Labour health spokeswoman, said: "If this Government were serious about tobacco advertising, it would cut the relationship with the tobacco companies - matters more than its obligation to public health."

The code advises stopping smoking, reducing drinking, adjusting your diet, taking exercise and early attendance for screening and treatment. It says 125,000 cancer deaths a year could be avoided throughout the European Union. The survey showed that out of seven known cancer risks including diet, drinking, and lack of exercise, most British people interviewed acknowledged smoking only as dangerous.



More than 200 firefighters tackled a massive chemical fire yesterday at the BASF plant at Wilton, Cleveland. Residents were urged to stay indoors and schools and businesses were closed as thick black smoke rose from two warehouses holding 10,000 tonnes of plastic chips

Health league table could list hospital death rates

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering publishing "death rate" league tables for hospitals in England and Wales. Tables comparing mortality rates were published for Scottish hospitals last year and caused disquiet in the medical profession.

A Department of Health spokesman said that the Government was debating whether to include the statistic - which it prefers to call "clinical outcome" - in next year's league tables for all hospitals.

The figures, which would show the percentage of those admitted with life-threatening conditions who died within 30 days, would be added to performance indicators including waiting times and speed of treatment. "We are expanding the number of indicators in hospital league tables next year and we are

looking to see if we can find a way of comparing like with like on clinical outcomes," a spokesman said.

He conceded that there were difficulties in, for example, comparing death rates for a hospital concentrating on complex heart operations with one specialising in a more straightforward field.

For that reason the proposal was not completely supported. But the department said it was keen to publish year-on-year "clinical outcome" comparisons for the same hospital. The difficulty is that once such information is public, it is all too easy to compile a league table.

The Scottish Office confirmed yesterday that, despite considerable opposition, it would be publishing death-rate tables again next year. A spokesman said that the

Swedish hospital service was so impressed that it had sought advice on following the example.

The Scottish tables list the percentage of admissions with acute heart attacks, strokes and other symptoms dying within 30 days. They produced wide variations, from 15 per cent of those admitted with a heart attack to Western General dying within 30 days to a 30 per cent rate at Fife Hospital.

Opponents say the figures are "crude and misleading". The British Medical Association said: "We have been involved in discussions with the Department of Health and we are unimpressed. We are not opposed outright but death rate only gives part of the picture. We do not want hospitals stigmatised unnecessarily."

Scott report put back to next year

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE Scott inquiry report into the arms-for-Iraq affair, now believed to number more than 2,000 pages, will not be published until next year.

Sir Richard Scott's target for publication had been next month. But a source close to the inquiry admitted yesterday that some sections dealing with "gagging orders", which were signed by ministers to prevent evidence being disclosed in the Matrix Churchill trial, had still not been sent to the parties concerned.

The delay represents another victory for those in Whitehall whom Sir Richard has privately accused of "prevarication". The report was originally expected in spring 1994.

But the further delay will produce mixed reactions among ministers gathering in Blackpool for the Tory confer-

ence. Some party strategists believe it would be better for the controversy provoked by the report to be dealt with soon, to distance the affair from the general election.

A source close to Sir Richard said: "He has written most of the report apart from the recommendations. But there are still a few sections covering the public interest immunity certificates to be sent out."

Those criticised in the report are sent a preview and invited to comment in writing. Ministers who signed the certificates included Kenneth Clarke, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Malcolm Rifkind and Peter Lilley.

Sixty-nine witnesses, including ministers and officials of government departments, have submitted more than 1,500 pages of fresh documentary evidence attempting to justify their actions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bishops to be briefed on abuse claims

Roman Catholic bishops in Ireland are meeting this week to discuss guidelines to help them to deal with the growing allegations of sexual abuse by clergy.

A draft report on how claims of sexual abuse should be dealt with will be placed before the bishops meeting in Maynooth, Co Kildare by a committee working on the guidelines. On Sunday the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev Desmond Connell, apologised for the Catholic Church's "inadequate response" to recent cases.

Hang glider dies

A hang glider pilot drowned when he fell into the sea after jumping from a cliff at Sandy Bay near Exmouth, Devon. Paul Gildon, 54, of Bradninch, Devon, failed to release his harness and died despite the efforts of five walkers who swam to his aid.

Thames attack

A pensioner with angina and his son, a senior registrar with Oxfordshire Health Authority, were thrown into the Thames by two young men outside the Anchor Inn, Abingdon. John Roberts, 72, and Matthew Roberts, 34, were treated in hospital.

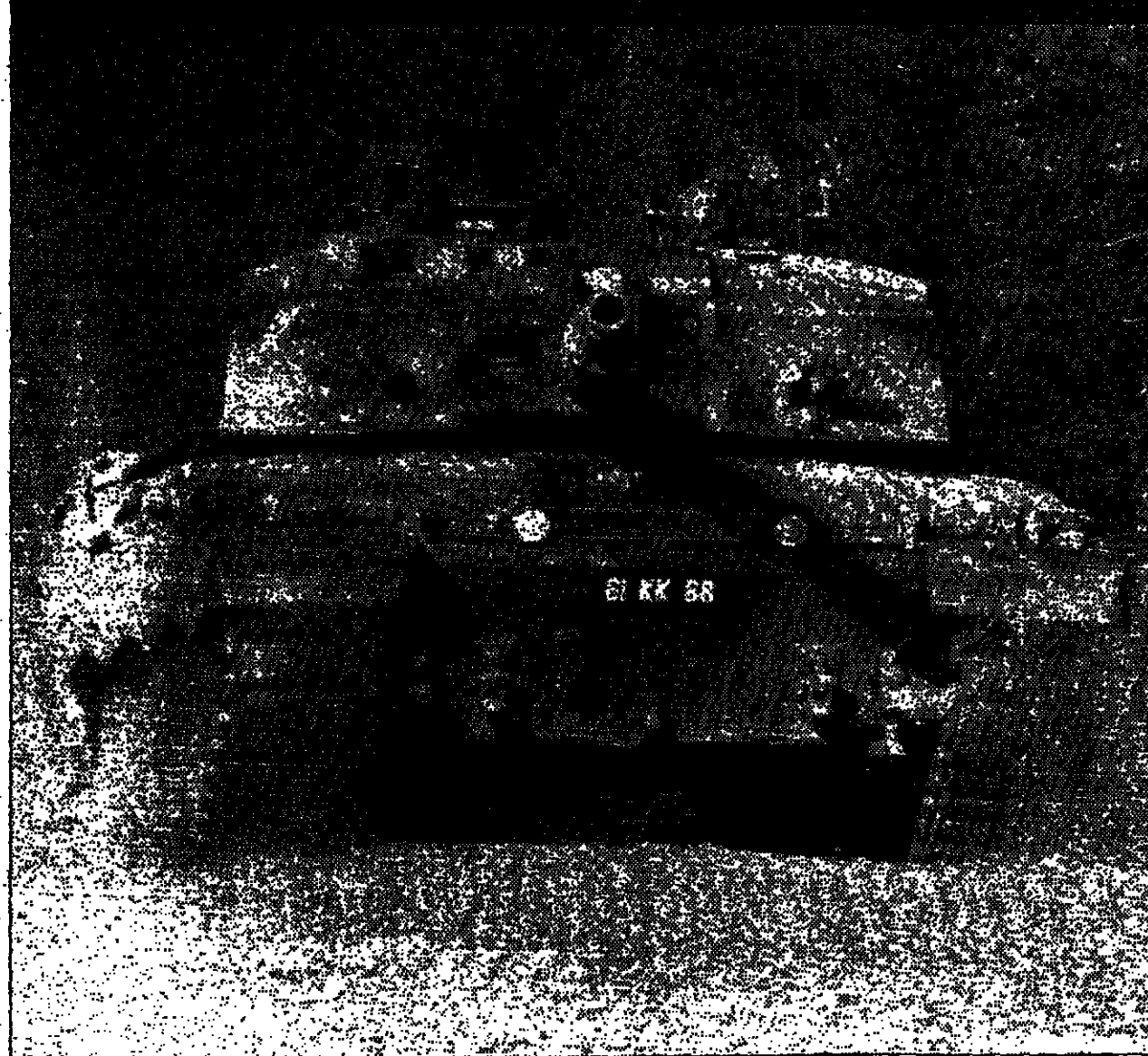
Bill for victim

A man killed in a gas explosion has been sent a £230 gas bill addressed to Mr J Clark - Deceased. John Clark, 36, died in July when a blast caused by a leaking main demolished flats in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. British Gas has apologised.

Busy line

Stuart Thorp, 24, ran up a £1,400 telephone bill calling sex lines in Africa, the United States and South America while looking after his mother's cats for two weeks at the house she shares in Walkley, Sheffield, with her boyfriend. He has agreed to pay the bill.

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French act to defend franc from speculators

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Bank of France acted for a second time to defend the franc against a fresh assault by currency speculators yesterday amid a climate of deepening economic uncertainty as the country prepared for its largest one-day strike in a decade.

The franc again came under attack from speculators when trading opened on foreign exchange markets. It lost two centimes against the German mark before the central bank acted to ward off speculators, allowing it to recoup its losses and close at 3.51 marks.

Today's 24-hour strike by five million French public-sector workers in protest at a planned wage freeze next year, is the most serious test so far for the embattled five-month-old government of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister. He is under threat from an official corruption inquiry into his lease of a city-owned flat in Paris.

Doubts over the Prime Minister's political future increased sharply yesterday with the emergence of new documentary evidence suggesting M Juppé had direct authority over city housing when, as deputy mayor, he signed a lease on a large flat in the Saint Germain des Prés district at a substantially reduced rent.

The speculative run on the

franc reflects growing concern over the French Government's ability to cut its budget deficit, fears compounded by negative opinion polls, the impending strike and M Juppé's legal problems.

Reacting to the political and financial turmoil, the Bank of France last Friday closed a five-to-ten day borrowing facility and opened a 24-hour one at an unchanged interest rate of 6.15 per cent.

Yesterday, it initiated a second stage, raising the rate on its overnight lending window to 7.25 per cent, in an attempt to prevent a repetition of the speculation that caused the currency to plummet five centimes against the German mark on Friday.

The move, which could affect economic growth and caused French share prices to drop, was intended to make it harder for speculators to borrow francs, sell them, and then buy them back more cheaply at a profit.

The bank said it had moved to ensure the franc remained "at the core of the group of most credible currencies in the exchange rate mechanism," adding that the currency had "significant potential to appreciate".

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president who is currently in Washington, issued a statement saying that the rate



French newspapers yesterday reflected the mood of deepening national crisis over the collapse of the franc

rise should help the franc to "overcome recent foreign exchange market uncertainties." "The French franc, as based on economic fundamentals, is still one of Europe's strong currencies," he said.

Analysts, however, predicted that the currency would remain highly volatile as currency traders scrutinise reactions to today's strike and await the outcome of the inquiry into the allegations that M Juppé abused his position as deputy mayor.

On Saturday, M Juppé at-

tacked currency speculators who sent the franc plummeting, and appeared to single out the "gnomes of London" for special condemnation. But yesterday his supporters were insisting the Prime Minister had been misheard.

He was referring to "ces gnomes de l'ombre" (these shadowy gnomes) rather than "ces gnomes de Londres" (London), they maintained — somewhat unconvincingly, since international currency speculators such as the billionaire George Soros could hard-

ly be said to lurk in the shadows. Bruno Cotte, the Paris prosecutor, received fresh evidence yesterday suggesting that M Juppé may have broken the law as the city's deputy mayor, when he was in charge of finances and economics.

A lawyer for a Paris taxpayer's association presented M Cotte with an "official municipal bulletin", dated August 29, 1989, and signed by Jacques Chirac, the then Mayor, nominating a municipal councillor to oversee housing affairs

"under the authority" of M Juppé. The Prime Minister began renting his elegant flat on Rue Jacob in 1990. Jean Tiberi, the present Mayor of Paris, had previously insisted that M Juppé had no decision-making authority in the management of city housing.

Much of France will grind to a halt today when public-sector unions, after agreeing on joint action for the first time in almost ten years, go on strike in protest at the Prime Minister's deficit-cutting austerity drive.

Post offices will close, along with schools, courts and social security offices. Hospitals and prisons will work to rule, while one in four trains will operate on the high-speed regional lines. Three out of every ten Eurostar trains running between London and Paris are expected to be cancelled. Union organisers have also planned nationwide demonstrations.

France's five million civil servants and workers from key state industries make up almost a quarter of the entire French workforce, and today's strike is being seen as an opportunity for them to voice their mounting anger not only over M Juppé's austerity measures, but also at President Chirac's unfulfilled election promises to raise pay rates and reduce taxes.

Union officials have warned that the stoppage may be the precursor of many more. Jean Puech, the Civil Service Minister, condemned the action, which he said would "disturb the lives of our citizens".

But Louis Viannet, the secretary-general of the communist-led CGT trade union, said the Government had opted for a fight and would get one. Nicole Notat, leader of the pro-socialist CFTD union, said the action was a "shot across the bows" of the Government, and called for further negotiations.

City, pages 25, 27, 29

The franc tumbles, Juppé moves house. *Libération* headline

For the French economy to be safe from the turbulence of the dollar, the franc must be as strong as the Deutschmark... To achieve that, France must put its affairs in order. We have eliminated inflation; external trade is in surplus. All we require is to reduce the debt and deficit. The Government of Alain Juppé has done what should be done for that. Taking account of social needs, he could not have done more. *Le Figaro*

Is the strong-franc policy the highest priority in economic politics, relegating to second place — and potentially impeding — the battle against unemployment? *Le Monde* editorial

It seems more and more as if the Maastricht treaty, in giving priority to the single European currency, has put the cart in front of the horse. It would be better to get out of this impasse rather than get in deeper still. *Les Echos*

Perfidious Albion hides multitude of woes for Paris

BY GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR, AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

IN 1965, George Brown christened the bankers threatening the pound sterling as "the gnomes of Zurich". 30 years later, France's Prime Minister thinks his currency is under attack by the "gnomes of London".

The late British Minister for Economic Affairs did himself no good by accusing such shadowy scapegoats, and Alain Juppé looks as if he will fare little better by shifting the blame from Switzerland to London. M Juppé's problem lies in the gap between France's declared policy and economic reality rather than with conspiracies dreamt up by currency traders in Britain.

But in pointing the finger outside France, the beleaguered Prime Minister was following a long French tradition of suspecting Britain and America — *les Anglo-Saxons* — of plotting to sabotage a European single currency.

Jacques Delors, the former President of the European Commission, rallied against this transatlantic alliance when money dealers began to reflect doubts about the Maastricht treaty three years ago. Senior French officials would tell anyone who would listen that American and British banks were secretly co-operating to derail Maastricht and monetary union.

The search for mysterious external forces to blame is always urgent in moments of currency crisis since the French public seldom gets much warning that trouble is on the way. For several weeks,



Brown: put blame on "gnomes of Zurich"

bankers, diplomats and analysts in Paris, London and Frankfurt have been debating whether France's drastic deficit-reduction plan will be carried out in time to qualify it for a single currency scheduled to be launched in 1999. Barely a word of doubt has seeped into the French media: plenty appeared in London.

French Euro-sceptics and dissident economists call this refusal to question France's drive towards a single currency *la pensée unique* — the single thought. But it acts as a powerful taboo and an incentive to believe that the franc's current troubles can once again be traced to the problems of the American dollar. *Le Monde's* main article on the franc's fate yesterday paid lengthy attention to global currency relations and relatively little to the domestic causes of its weakness.

The European Commission, responsible for planning the introduction of the single

currency, depicted yesterday the tempest over the franc as a product of "political froth". Since the "fundamentals" of the French economy are sound, pressure on the currency is unjustified, says Yves-Thibault de Sigüy, French Commissioner for Monetary Affairs. "We are always lurching from 'upheaval' to 'upheaval', but we always get through," said another official. Comparisons with Britain's predicament in 1992, when the pound was ejected from the exchange-rate mechanism, were unfounded and based on wishful British thinking, he added.

But the lack of curiosity in France about the roots of the crisis and the whistling in the corridors of Brussels mask deep fears. The EMU's fate lies mainly in French hands, yet there is worry that, faced with strikes and prolonged unrest, President Chirac will not bear the cost of administering the harsh medicine required for the birth of the single currency.

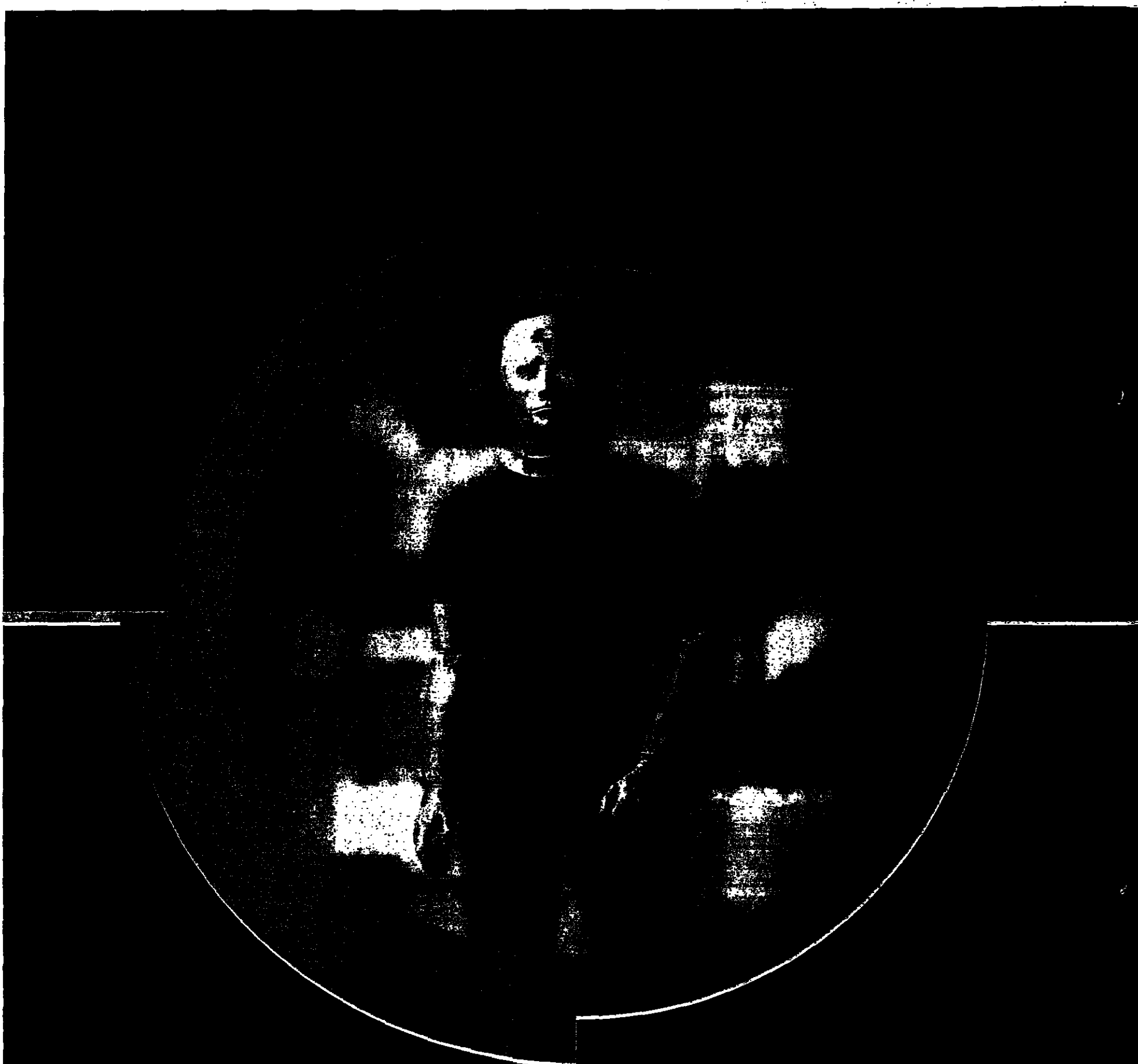
The anxiety is compounded by suspicions that, afflicted by its own doubts and stung by disruptive French behaviour in the European Union, Germany may not be so ready as before to extend a helping hand. "There is a drift towards a downward spiral," a senior French official in Brussels said of the disaffection between Bonn and Paris. Speaking of EMU before the franc upset, he added: "The Germans are wondering if it is really worth the sacrifice."

But the debate over what a single currency might mean can hardly be heard loud and clear in Germany. The reservations of the Bundesbank and Finance Ministry can be expressed only in code. "By his very stature after 13 years in power, Chancellor [Helmut] Kohl can make and break careers in German politics and, therefore, he can cause or silence political debate," Thomas Kiefinger, former editor of a Bonn weekly newspaper said yesterday. "Since 1991, Kohl has suppressed debate and dissent about monetary union wherever he could."

Behind a confident public façade, German doubts about France's economic performance are growing. A weekend report from the influential Deutsche Bank said: "Monetary union without the simultaneous participation of Germany and France is unimaginable." France could meet the Maastricht targets for EMU, reaffirmed this month — if its Government kept down wage rises and reformed the debt-laden social security system, it said.

While many argue that France remains deeply committed to EMU, in the back of many a Euro-mind is the possibility of M Chirac performing a U-turn as dramatic as President Mitterrand's 1983 switch to monetary orthodoxy, but in reverse.

This could mean espousing the "autre politique" promoted by Philippe Seguin, the Gaullist anti-Maastricht champion who is waiting in the wings as a possible replacement for M Juppé.



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ARTS 34

Continental
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Mixed

RTZ plan

RTZ plan

RTZ plan

RTZ plan

RTZ plan

ARTS 34-36

Criminals rejoice: Walter Mosley's got the blues

LAW 37-39

When your solicitor lets you down

SPORT 43-48

Boardman back in pursuit of cycling honours

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

Government 'out of touch' with needs of business

By Philip Bassett

THE Government's close ties with business are "coming apart at the seams", the Institute of Management says today as it publishes poll evidence showing more than half of Britain's managers think the Government is out of touch with business.

The latest findings on falling business support for the Government, published as the Conservative Party opens its annual conference in Blackpool today, follows poll find-

ings among business leaders last week showing a swing of as much as 18 per cent in UK managers' political support from Conservative to Labour.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will emphasise tomorrow at the Conservative conference the importance of Britain's competitiveness and will reaffirm the party's traditional closeness to business in the face of a strong drive by Labour to forge closer links with business — including the deal with BT on the information superhighway announced last week by Tony Blair.

But, in advance of that, the Institute of Management, which claims to be Britain's leading management organisation, says today that "the Government's traditional close ties with business are coming apart at the seams".

A survey of a sample of the IOM's members at all management levels shows that 54 per cent of those surveyed think the Government is out of touch with the real needs of UK business.

The findings show strong support for a closer partnership between the Government and business — a key

element of Labour's pitch for greater business support.

Roger Young, Director-General of the IOM, says that the Labour Party has "exposed a chink" in the Government's armour over business: "The Conservatives' traditionally strong links with business are showing signs of fatigue," he says.

Views on individual political issues show considerable disagreement among British managers with Government policy.

UK managers are predominantly pro-European, the IOM survey shows, with two-thirds supporting closer

economic union with the European Union, including 61 per cent of those managers intending to vote Conservative at the next general election.

A total of 53 per cent of managers do not think there should be a referendum over Britain's relationship with the rest of Europe. However, 51 per cent are against closer political union with the European Union. And 46 per cent are against the introduction of a single European currency, compared with 38 per cent in favour.

Among Conservative-voting managers, almost two-thirds are against

a single currency. But managers are opposed to the Government's remaining privatisations, the survey shows.

Three-fifths are against the privatisation of British Rail and the Post Office, though, of those managers intending to vote Conservative at the next election, those for and against the privatisation of both are roughly equally divided at about 40 per cent.

Tory conference, page 9
Libby Furves, page 18
City Diary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3510.3	(-16.2)
FT-SE 100 All Share	4225	(-8.33)
Nikkei	18175.27	(-330.01)
Dow Jones	4729.47	(-39.74)
S&P Composite	578.54	(-3.95)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	7 1/8%	(106 1/2%)
Yield	7 1/8%	(106 1/2%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Libor 3-month	5 1/8%	(106 1/2%)
Libor 6-month	5 1/8%	(106 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.5855	(1.5830)
London	1.5853	(1.5831)
DM	2.2251	(2.2251)
DM	7.8885	(7.9000)
Sfr	1.8088	(1.8149)
Yen	152.52	(152.52)
S Index	94.6	(95.1)

DOLLAR

London	1.4135	(1.4218)
DM	4.9825	(4.9855)
Sfr	1.1425	(1.1450)
Yen	100.87	(100.87)
S Index	92.5	(92.6)

TOKYO CLOSING YEN 100.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut 15-day (Dec)	\$15.80	(\$15.60)
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GOLD

London close	\$384.55	(\$382.75)
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* denotes midday trading price

Lloyds and TSB in £15bn merger

By Patricia Tiffin

LLOYDS BANK will tomorrow unveil details of a £5 billion takeover of TSB, in a move that will create a £15 billion financial services giant.

Under the terms of the deal still being negotiated today, TSB's founder shareholders, the four charitable foundations created at the time of its founding in 1984, will be paid £5 billion for the bank. The deal will also see the four foundations set up the four foundations to cover its four banking areas of England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, to support charitable objectives within each territory.

Under the foundation terms, TSB entered into covenants to make annual payments to the TSB Foundations of an average of 1 per cent of its pre-tax profits each year. This year they received almost £3 million.

The two sides have not yet finalised the terms of the new covenants with the TSB Foundations, but they have decided against converting the covenants into ordinary shares and will pay a percentage of the pre-tax profits of the merged group to them.

The foundations maintained TSB's links with the origins of the group when local savings banks were established in the early nine-

Bank	Assets (£bn)	Branches	Staff	Customers	Market Cap (£bn)
Lloyds TSB	127.83	2,983	84,076	15.5m	14.9
NatWest	173.70	2,822	50,500	7.2m	10.89
Barclays	168.00	2,050	68,100	15m	11.08
Midland	80.00	1,736	45,000	4.5m	Not quoted
Hallam-Lloyds	93.5	1,083	27,000	10m	9-10
ABN-Amro	94.3	675	18,000	11.3m	7.5

* estimate

teenth century to encourage thrift among wage-earners.

Lloyds and TSB have been in serious merger talks for several weeks. The initial approach came from Sir Brian Pittman, chief executive of Lloyds, to Peter Ellwood, his opposite number at TSB, several months ago. Advisers said the two sides had been "firing with the idea of a merger" for the past five years.

Sir Brian would be chief executive of Lloyds TSB, with Mr Ellwood as one of two deputies. Mr Ellwood would be in charge of integrating the retail banking operations. At 52 he is seen as the most likely successor as chief executive when Sir Brian retires in about 18 months. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of TSB, and John Davies, deputy chairman of Lloyds, would be the two deputy chairmen.

Lloyds is advised by ING Barings, with ABN Amro Hoare Govett as its broker.

TSB is advised by JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley, with SEC Warburg as its broker.

The two had planned to announce the deal at the end of this month, but were obliged to make a statement because of weekend speculation.

Lloyds directors were summoned at short notice to a board meeting last night to approve the deal, while TSB's board is to meet today.

Lloyds said that if a successful agreement was reached the merger was expected to value each TSB share at 329p, including a special dividend of 68p net per share. This would mean Lloyds shareholders would own about 70 per cent of the new group, to be called Lloyds TSB.

The combine would create a banking and insurance giant with assets of £140 billion, 90,000 staff, pre-tax profits of £2 billion, 3,000 branches, 15 million customers and coverage across Britain. According



Sir Robin Ibbes, chairman of Lloyds, and Sir Brian Pittman called the board together last night at short notice

to Datamonitor, it would be the UK's largest high street bank by customer, branch and cashpoint numbers, the second largest credit card issuer, the third largest mortgage lender and a top ten life insurance office.

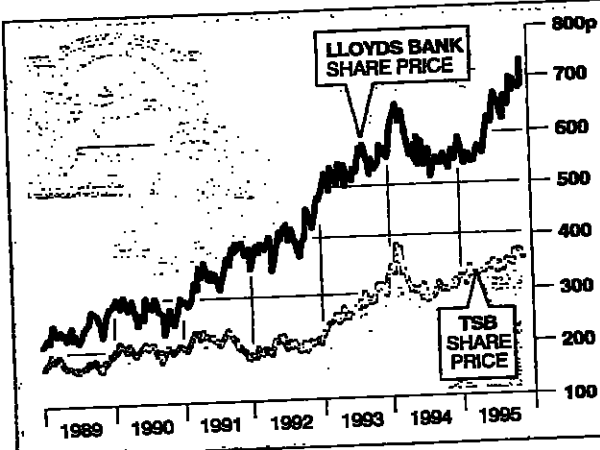
City analysts said the two would fit well together geographically as TSB was strongest north of the Midlands while Lloyds was strongest in the South.

The takeover is likely to involve widespread job losses and branch closures. Datamonitor estimated that up to 600 branches could close

over the next two years.

Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, is thought to have completed its independent investigation into alleged irregularities at Hill Samuel, TSB's merchant banking arm. Linklaters is expected to present its report to the TSB board at a meeting on October 26. The Serious Fraud Office is considering whether to launch a full investigation into alleged irregularities involving a former Hill Samuel director.

Pennington, page 27
TSB says yes, page 29
City Diary, page 29



Mixed reception for deal to link mining interests

RTZ plans Australian merger

By Colin Campbell and Rachel Burges

RTZ, the mining group, is to merge its businesses with its 49 per cent owned Australian partner, CRA, in a union described as "visionary" in London but which has been criticised in Australia.

The combination of RTZ and CRA's worldwide mining interests will be by way of a dual listed-companies merger, under which each group retains its identity and remains separately quoted. The merged group, yet to be named, will have a common board, initially of 20, of whom nine will be executive.

Even more areas will open up, RTZ said, hinting that new horizons, including Latin America, India and China, beckon to groups that are financially strong. The union with CRA will lift RTZ's net assets

from £3.4 billion at the end of December 1994 to £4.5 billion.

After the retirement of Sir Derek Birkin in December 1996, Robert Wilson, RTZ's chief executive, will become full-time chairman of the merged entity. Leon Davies, CRA's chief executive, will be the merged group's chief executive. The head office will be in London, and both RTZ and CRA will continue to hold their own annual meetings.

In London, Sir Derek and Mr Wilson said the idea of a merged group came from CRA. However, in Australia the concept was greeted with scepticism and analysts were cynical. "It is a takeover by any other name. Here we have yet another instance of an Australian company being swallowed up by an overseas player. It's the same old story."

However, Mr Wilson told London's in-

vestment community the merger was not a takeover. He outlined various substantial advantages that could be expected to flow from the combination of businesses, though he admitted in the short term RTZ could suffer earnings dilution.

On the stock market, RTZ shares closed down 15p at 909p. In Australian markets, CRA shares eased 2 cents to A\$20.10.

CRA's chairman, John Uhrig, said the dual listed-companies structure "is all about delivering long-term growth to shareholders. It allows us to remain an Australian company but fast-tracks us into growth in the world mining business".

Australian nationals suggested that the deal would spark off renewed concern about the growing number of Australian assets being controlled offshore.

Temps, page 28

Clowes wins legal fight to challenge parole refusal

By Robert Miller

PETER CLOWES, who is serving a ten-year prison sentence after his Barlow Clowes empire collapsed owing investors £190 million, has won the first round in a fight to be granted parole.

The Court of Appeal yesterday overturned a ruling by a High Court judge who this summer refused to allow Clowes to challenge a Parole Board decision not to recommend him for parole when it became due next year. Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Parker, said Clowes had an arguable point on which to seek a judicial review.

The hearing is expected to take place next spring.

Clowes applied to the Parole Board in July for an early release from Sudbury Open Prison in Derbyshire. This was rejected. Milton Firman, of Latimer Lee, the solicitors, said he had secured legal aid for Clowes to appeal against the decision. The defence costs at the 1992 trial of Clowes cost the taxpayer £1 million, while the Government agreed to pay £150 million in compensation costs to Barlow Clowes victims.

Graeme Williams, QC, counsel for Clowes, yesterday challenged the Parole Board's view that Clowes needed more time in prison to come to terms with the magnitude of his crime and its effect upon others. He said Clowes was a man for whom prison could do no more and that he had a job, home and young family to return to.

After Clowes's application for early parole was rejected, Mr Firman said: "I am absolutely convinced my client has been discriminated against because he is so disliked by the public. The same thing has happened to my client Darius Guppy, who is also [in prison] at Sudbury. He had to appeal to the Prison Ombudsman to get a ruling that so-called 'notorious' prisoners were entitled to the same treatment as anyone else."

French rate rise bolsters franc

By Janet Bush

ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of France's move to raise a key interest rate to deter speculators yesterday, coupled with some welcome verbal support from top German officials, helped the franc to stabilise after Friday's losses.

The French central bank on Friday suspended its five to 10-day lending window and replaced it with an overnight facility. Yesterday, it raised the rate on its 24-hour facility from 6.15 to 7.25 per cent, a classic tactic for making it more expensive for speculators to sell the franc.

What impressed the market was that the Bank of France did not impose a penal (much higher) interest rate, which would have smacked of panic. Yesterday's move was regarded as a measured response.

By late European trading, the franc was quoted at 351 to the mark, up from yesterday's five-month low of 353. It perked up after Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank President, said in Washington the franc remained one of Europe's strong currencies and the Bank of France's move on rates would soon overcome uncertainties in the currency markets. Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, and even Lamberto Dini, Italy's Prime Minister, also weighed in to support the franc.

The markets, however, do not believe pressure on the franc is over because of France's problem of reconciling cuts in its budget deficit with political pledges to bring down unemployment.

Macho policy, page 29

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□ On the way to the financial supermarket □ French sang froid on the forex □ Hanging Bankers Trust out to dry

Cornering the market

■ FALSE nostalgia aside, few households today regret having delegated so much of their weekly shopping list to the big supermarkets. Taking the car to Sainsbury's may be a soulless experience compared to a trip down a cobbled, Hovis-advertised high street of fondly remembered, but there is little doubt which is more convenient.

In a decade or so, the notion of shopping around under different roofs for mortgages, insurance, pensions and somewhere to store the household cash may seem as outdated as buying one's weekly joint from a butcher does to much of the population today.

The Lloyds Bank/TSB link is the latest step towards a consolidated financial services industry that would be dominated by half a dozen conglomerates, each with dedicated business units to provide the different products their customers would need.

This, at least, is what the big players in the industry would like us to believe, and the attractions to those that would remain big players are clear. Their aim is one-stop financial shopping, and cradle-to-grave financial selling.

Investors, accountholders and mortgagors have shopped around up to now for a range of reasons, not least the worry of putting all their money and borrowings with one institution

that might then collapse. They also worry about one institution knowing too much about their financial affairs.

They have shopped selectively for particular skills, choosing an insurance provider by reputation or price and a bank, perhaps, by personal and bitter experience of its rivals.

The big banks and other financial institutions have their own shopping lists. As more building societies convert into quoted companies or are snapped up by the big banks, the trend towards the financial supermarket will continue, driven by the savings from cross-selling different products out of the same site on the high street or down the telephone.

Already, banks and insurance companies are eyeing investment firms with proven records, such as Mercury Asset Management or Gartmore, with interest, although they complain that the prices are too high. The danger to customers of the emergence of a financial services market comprising a few financial giants and a sprinkling of niche players is twofold. The running

row over insurance mis-selling shows that their interests will not always be safeguarded, while most people's utter lack of sophistication in handling their financial affairs makes them easy meat for the unscrupulous. Each financial line of business coming out of the supermarket, insurance, pensions, personal banking or whatever, will have to be overseen by the relevant regulatory body, whose varying records so far do not inspire confidence. The damage done to the customer by a misfolded pension is far greater than an unripe avocado or a stale packet of cornflakes.

Fortifying the franc

FOR central banks to rely on brute force rather than guile in the endless battle against currency speculators is usually counter-productive — a point proved comprehensively when Norman Lamont and the Bank of England jacked up British interest rates to 15 per cent in 1992 in their doomed attempt to



keep the pound in the European Exchange-Rate Mechanism.

The Bank of France has learned from such ill-fated brinkmanship. Its tactic is to warn off would-be wreckers of French aspirations towards monetary union have been mild, even by comparison with previous times when the franc was under attack. In March, the Bank closed its five to ten-day lending facility and replaced it with an overnight one at a rate of 8 per cent. The market panicked and the franc was sold even more heavily.

This time, the Bank took a more subtle approach, only yesterday deciding to raise the rate on its 24-hour window and then to a level below the current cost of one-month money. The Bank

is telling the market that it does not want the whole structure of French interest rates to move higher and that it only has a temporary problem with the franc. The markets have so far responded with some respect to that view.

There is no doubt that the markets tasted French blood in the foreign exchange waters, and that they will not abandon their campaign to destabilise the franc, making it unfit for entry into an eventual monetary union. But this particular scalp will not be won as easily as sterling's was.

For one thing, when the pound was under attack it was trading within relatively narrow and strictly adhered-to fluctuation limits in the ERM. There was a clear target to aim at. Not so now with the franc which, like other European currencies, is allowed to fluctuate 15 per cent either side of a central parity. Such a broad target is not nearly as appetising.

The other great difference is that the British economic establishment was undermined from within, riddled with Euro-sceptics. The French political

elite is still passionately wedded to the franc fort. The speculators have a real fight on their hands this time.

Bankers' dirty linen washed in public

■ OF all the lords of corporate America one would least want to poke with a pointed stick, Procter & Gamble is right at the top of the list. Just ask Unilever, which is still regretting the War of the Rotting Underwear last summer. The agonies of Bankers Trust are a long way from over.

The excesses of the bank's derivatives operations in the early 1990s had been known for some time, but last week's revelations may have provided the fatal wound. P&G has come clean about the rip-off factor at Bankers, complete with taped evidence. As damaging is the news that many more companies claim to have suffered that ROF and are demanding, or have already won, more than \$300 million in compensation.

Customers on both sides of the Atlantic can be expected to

abandon Bankers in droves over the next few weeks, or at the very least start asking some pertinent questions. Bankers is in disgrace and it has a succession problem. The chairman, Charles Sanford, the driving force behind the aggressive derivatives business is retiring by next summer. Eugene Shanks, the president, was once his natural successor but is now himself too closely identified with derivative to take the top job.

The only reason Bankers' shares did not go into freefall last week is that the market now believes a takeover is possible. There are US and overseas banks with sufficient resources who might take the idea seriously — assuming Procter & Gamble lays off for a while, and no more disgruntled and ripped-off clients emerge.

Bitter pills

■ The Fisons-RPR endgame is becoming increasingly bad-tempered. Fisons claims the bidder, not content with double-counting in last week's market raid, then rushed out a statement that claimed, falsely, to come from Fisons and to settle the matter. RPR says it was only following the rules, and now accuses its quarry of misleading shareholders over the chances of a higher bid. Gentlemen, please.

Lucas aims to sell aerospace division

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE aerospace division of Lucas Industries is likely to be sold as the group, which has set aside £95 million to cover a dispute with the US Government and a restructuring of its operations in America, increasingly focuses on its automotive activities.

George Simpson, chief executive, said: "In the past the management wanted Lucas to be equally balanced between automotive and aerospace. This is no longer the case." He said Lucas was highlighting aerospace for margin improvement and profitability so it would be in better shape when the industry — reeling from the decline in defence and civil aviation — picked up. Then a sale would not be ruled out as Lucas pursued "strategic options".

Mr Simpson said a viable aerospace operation would need heavy exposure to the US defence market, which, considering the high cost of settlement in the gearbox dispute, was not a happy prospect for Lucas.

Aerospace, which suffered a hit of \$98 million from the dispute with the Pentagon over the supply of gearboxes to the US Army and Navy and which made further provisions to restructure its State-side operations, now accounts for just 17 per cent of the

group's sales. The automotive division last year increased its share of the turnover from 70 to 75 per cent.

Yesterday the company said Frank Turner, the managing director of aerospace, would leave at the end of the month to be replaced by Ken Maciver, now head of the braking operation where he has overseen a programme of rationalisation and a reduction in overheads.

Lucas, which hoisted its capital expenditure 49 per cent to £152 million in the year to July 31, boosted operating profits 61 per cent to £135.8 million after loss-making subsidiaries were eliminated. After exceptional profits stood at £30.4 million, against last year's losses of £129.7 million, when the company made restructuring provisions of more than £200 million.

Lucas said there would be further growth in capital expenditure as it sought to develop its engineering through new technology and manufacturing. With gearing down to 25 per cent from 39 per cent, Lucas said it was in the market to make acquisitions.

The final dividend, which will be paid on January 18, was maintained at 4.9p making a total of 7p.

Tempos, page 28

Former chief bids for Country Casuals

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE former chief executive of Country Casuals yesterday mounted a £27 million takeover bid for the womenswear retailer, saying that the company was in need of more aggressive management.

John Shannon, who quit the company last year after a dispute over extending his contract, seemed poised for victory with his cash offer of 140p a share after winning the backing of Phillips & Drew Fund Management. P&DFM owns a 13.3 per cent stake which, along with Mr Shannon's holding of 18.5 per cent, breaches the crucial 30 per cent that permits further stake-building in the market. The shares closed at 138p, up 6p on the day after the mid-afternoon bid announcement. Country Casuals repeated its

snub of last week when it was revealed that Mr Shannon had made an approach, saying that the timing was opportunistic and that the sum did not reflect the potential of the group.

Last month interim losses showed a 30 per cent improvement at £1.05 million with the core brand suffering because of continued problems at Elvi, the store's outside division. Mr Shannon is backed with £11 million in venture capital from Gartmore and Causeway and £17 million in debt from Société Générale. He said he had made the offer because more radical management action was needed at the group. He added: "A much more aggressive approach is needed in order to turn the business around."



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Accountancy, Finance and
Banking Appointments
now appear in
Section 3
every Thursday

Merger mania in bank sector lifts sentiment

THE London stock market is likely to open sharply lower when trading resumes this morning after news of heavy overnight losses on Wall Street.

In early trading, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled more than 50 points, the falls exaggerated by a low attendance level among investors, many of whom took time off to celebrate Columbus Day.

By the close of business in London last night, it was clear that the market had failed to take into account events across the Atlantic. But brokers immediately began batten down the hatches fearing a shake-out when trading is resumed.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index finished 16.2 down at 3,510.3. Weighed down by political uncertainty ahead of this week's Conservative Party conference, renewed weakness in sterling and turbulence on European currency markets generally, the index saw an early 10-point lead quickly wiped out. Sentiment was further dampened by some worse than expected factory gate prices and falls on the bond market. If it had not been for the sudden burst of merger mania in the banking sector, the market would have probably closed more than 30 points down.

News of the proposed £15 billion merger between Lloyds Bank and TSB Group certainly took investors' minds off worries elsewhere. Searching for likely bid candidates, the focus of attention quickly fell on Royal Bank of Scotland, up 20p at 484p, and Bank of Scotland, 25p firmer at 240p. As far as the City is concerned, big is beautiful and mergers with rival companies are likely to be the way forward. The scope for cost-cutting will prove tempting for many companies.

Standard Chartered Bank is seen as another potential takeover target. Lloyds tried unsuccessfully to bid for the company back in the 1980s. The shares responded yesterday with a jump of 13p to 466p. But it is not just the banks that are likely to be targeted. Fund managers may also find themselves on the hunt. Mercury Asset Management was up 10p at 93p.

But it was Lloyds and the TSB which held centre-stage yesterday, with the TSB, an old takeover favourite which



Cadbury Schweppes leapt 30p to 527p yesterday

had been rumoured to be eyeing up the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, soaring 79p to 353p, and Lloyds Bank adding 21p to 726p. By the close of business, a massive 43 million TSB shares had changed hands and almost 15 million Lloyds shares. Under the terms of the proposed merger, Lloyds will own 70 per cent of the expanded company and TSB 30 per cent.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, stood out with a leap of 30p to 527p after a report from a specialist magazine that Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, was looking to make a break-up bid. The report, highlighted in a national newspaper, suggested that Unilever was ready to offer

600p a share. But the claim was quickly dismissed in the Square Mile. Analysts agree that any would-be suitor would have to part with more than 600p a share. Unilever does not have a reputation as an aggressive company and might be reluctant to become embroiled in such a bid.

Norweb rose 10p to £10.93

Vega, the computer software systems group, rose 25p to a high of 345p reflecting a buy recommendation from Bescon Gregory, the broker. Bescon is impressed by Vega's ability to diversify away from the space programme. Vega recently took on projects for the MoD linked to the Tornado and Harrier fighters.

with speculators pinning their hopes on North West Water topping the terms of £10.85 from the Texas Partners consortium. Mike Hilton, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, says North West will win the bid because it is more determined. The speculators are talking of North West paying up to £11.50 a share.

There was no shortage of support for other likely take-

over targets among the leaders. Zeneca rose 14p to £11.71 and Grand Metropolitan, which is rapidly establishing itself as a takeover play, firmed up to 431p.

Aran Energy firmed 4p to 73p after rejecting increased terms from Atlantic Richfield, the US oil exploration group. But Aran said the terms fell woefully short of its net assets which were valued at 104p a share by an independent company. Statoil of Norway, which is currently working on a joint venture with Aran in the Irish Sea, said it was contemplating the possibility of a counter bid.

Country Casuals advanced 6p to 138p after the women's wear group revealed details of a hostile offer from John Sharron, its former chairman. He is offering 140p in cash, valuing the entire company at £27 million. Sharron already has 18.2 per cent of the shares and has the backing of Phillips & Drew Fund Management with a further 13.3 per cent of the equity.

RTZ, the mining finance group, fell 14p to 909p after announcing details of its proposed merger with CRA and the sell-off of interests in Papua New Guinea.

Elsons lost 1/2p to 263p with Rhône-Poulenc. Rorec now owning 18.2 per cent of the shares after raids on the marketplace by ABN Amro Hoare Govett last week. Southern Electric marked time at 960p with National Power now accounting for 13.44 million shares, or almost 5 per cent of the equity, after last week's agreed £2.8 billion bid.

GILT-EDGED saw opening falls extended with the market weighed down by political worries and volatility on the foreign exchange markets.

In the futures pit, the long gilt future fell 1/4p to £17.32 to £105 1/4 with just 30.00 contracts completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell 1/4p to 69 1/4 while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2006 was 1/4p lower at £101 1/4.

NEW YORK: Shares were lower at midday, dragged down by a sweeping sell-off in the high technologies based on deep fears about earnings.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 39.74 points at 4,729.47 after earlier tumbling more than 50 points, or 1.06 per cent, to 4,719.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4730.47 (-39.74)
S&P Composite 578.54 (-3.95)
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18176.27 (-1330.11)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9863.44 (-10.40)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 458.46 (-1.75)
AO 3060.2 (-4.49)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2168.09 (-2.74)

Singapore:
Straits 2138.59 (-3.41)

Brussels:
General 7820.81 (-6.83)

Paris:
CAC-40 1785.71 (-23.84)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 666.30 (-1.40)

London:
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TEMPUS

World-class prospect

RTZ, rarely, if ever, does things by halves. Its proposed "union" with CRA enables RTZ not only to draw directly into its portfolio of metals and minerals, which currently have only meagre representation, but also to encompass, octopus-like, the entire world in one fell swoop. The logic of making East meet West is compelling. In today's world of opportunity, size — and financial muscle — count for everything.

The union is being effected through the concept of a dual-listed companies merger (à la Unilever, for example).

South America, Asia and the former Soviet Union — regions into which other mining groups are moving fast — will undoubtedly open up as new frontiers for RTZ-CRA. One day, it could even be China.

Investors in both entities are assured of a

progressive dividend policy, and in particular RTZ shareholders, who in 34 years have never seen a dividend cut, are told that their group's habit of paying a significant proportion of dividends as tax-advantageous foreign-income dividends will continue.

Cyclical metal prices and exchange rates are forever potential spoilers for earnings forecasts. However, inclusion within RTZ of a greater percentage of earnings from iron and coal interests will help smooth the curves. The pro forma of 1994 RTZ earnings shows a 5 per cent dilution and an 11 per cent earnings per share dilution for first-half RTZ results, reported recently. Longer term, however, RTZ's ability to control costs and improve mine efficiencies will out. RTZ shares yesterday eased 11p to 913p on dilution concerns, but the £10 level may be far off.

Lucas Industries

MANY hopes were pinned to George Simpson when he took the controls at Lucas Industries last year. Lucas, with its somewhat bafe management reputation and exposure to harsh-climate markets, needed radical surgery.

The man who got Rover sufficiently on its feet that it could then depart the country seemed an ideal doctor. But Simpson's method has proved less fire-fighting than judicious stubble-burning and welding, leaving many in the market a little twitchy that the value they believed to be hidden in Lucas had yet to show its face.

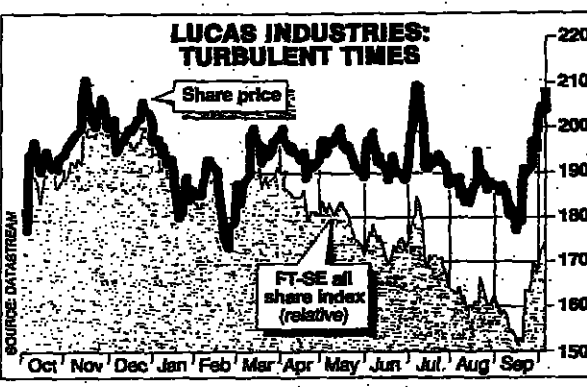
To be fair, Simpson has had his distractions, not least in aerospace, with the high-profile and costly dispute with the Pentagon.

Simpson has indicated

Lucas Industries

that the once cherished aerospace division, which until recently was earmarked for further growth, may be spruced up only for sale. Such a move would be a realistic response to an aerospace industry that, although it will improve in the short term, will not offer a nourishing feeding ground for long-term growth. Strip-

ping out exceptional, Lucas shows promising margin recovery. On forecast pre-tax profits of £190 million for next year, it is a prospect, five p/e of 15.9, which is expensive. But considering growth potential which could leapfrog in 1997 when large contracts come on stream it may well be worth the expense.



JD Wetherspoon

JD WETHERSPON'S thirst for growth remains unsatisfied. The half-pint sized chain added 23 pubs to its portfolio last year, taking its total to 110. In the current year, it expects to open a further 30. Its pubs, which are often converted supermarkets or banks, were initially in London, but the company is now spreading further afield.

The problem is that the balance of power has started to shift from the pub operators back to the brewers. Chains such as Wetherspoon, which have had a good time in recent years, overcapacity in the brewing industry meant Wetherspoon could negotiate favourable terms. Price discounts of up to 50 per cent were not unusual and as a result profits moved swiftly ahead. The current consolidation in the brewing industry will remove this beneficial overcapacity, threatening to erode Wetherspoon's mar-

JD Wetherspoon

gins. The company's dash for growth has increased its purchasing clout. But the rate of acceleration in profits is likely to ease. Yesterday's news that profits failed to hit targets and that like-for-like sales are rising 3.5 per cent knocked the shares down 7p, to 630p.

The fall hardly makes a dent in the 189p rise in the company's shares since the start of the year. This sharp rise partly reflects the recent renegotiation of five-year supply contracts with Courage and Scottish & Newcastle, but the main driver of the increase is bid speculation. The consolidation among the brewers is being followed by a similar rationalisation among retailers and while the shares are expensive few want to sell when there is a chance of a bid.

Fine Decor

Fine Decor has undeniably been in need of redecorating. Its shares have hardly spar-

Fine Decor

kled since the company listed in 1993 at 210p. And in recent months the cracks have become so evident that even the prospect of a bid premium failed to paper them over.

As a result, yesterday's offer of 172p a share by a Canadian company falls way short of the initial listing price, while still managing to be a 36.5 per cent premium to the share price before bid talks started. Look slightly further back to before there was any speculation of a bid and the offer price represents a 62 per cent premium to the company's then share price.

The business has suffered because of the lacklustre housing market — wallpapering usually only takes place when the home is newly purchased — and a rising raw material prices. Margins have been hit hard and profits have shrunk. Attempts to cut costs have been and continue to be taken and savings are

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Merger? What merger?

FOR Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of TSB, and Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, the IMF can never have been so rudely interrupted. No sooner had they settled into their Washington hotel for a week-long bankers' bash than both received frantic telephone calls on Sunday afternoon from their head offices.

The *Sunday Times* had come across merger plans of Paradise (TSB) with Lexus (Lloyds) that otherwise would not have been revealed for some weeks. Both knights hot-footed it back to London, arriving at Heathrow yesterday and rushing to the City as the 7.30am Stock Exchange announcement went out.

As for the *ST* discovery, that came about because an eagle-eyed journalist saw on a desk at Barings a piece of paper that should have been locked in a safe. The two banking knights will not be rushing back to the IMF. Their conference has already been rudely ruined.

THE wags are already playing with TSB's ditty and taking liberties with Lloyds Bank's horse. The ditty now goes "The bank that likes to say 'nay'".



"We are concerned about possible job losses"

Out of reach

MEANWHILE, the code name chosen for the project to merge RIZ with CRA was Tantalus. If only the baffles had consulted their classical dictionary. Tantalus, mythical king of Phrygia, son of Zeus and the nymph Dione, was condemned for revealing the secrets of the gods to stand up to his chin in water which receded whenever he stooped to drink. He also had branches of fruit hanging above him which always evaded his grasp.

No fun

MERRILL LYNCH is taking the fun out of Smith New Court. Officially the word has gone out — no more cartoons or jokes on page one of SNC research material. Also out are the definitive words "buy", "sell" and "hold" which ordinary mortals can understand. Instead, SNC recommendations must comply with Merrill's standard codes which come under the gloriously vague title of QRO. For instance, a best buy will now read A117, and an avoid at all costs will be D559. How do you read the code book? Letter codes A to D represent a scale of the degree of risk. The next two numerals indicate a time scale. The last figure, which will be either 7, 8 or 9, is the cue for whether the dividend is rising, flat or falling. The National Lottery is easier to comprehend.

Right signals?

BUSINESSSES are still wooing the Conservative Party to judge by the number of stands at its conference that opens today. And, in the run-up to rail privatisation, no fewer than four parts of BR are represented, but distinctly separated: BR London Rail Development, CrossRail, European Passenger Services and Railtrack. Perhaps they are working on a correct timetable for delegates.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Deal expected to prompt a wave of mergers, Patricia Tehan reports

TSB says yes to Lloyds after five-year courtship

Lloyds Bank and TSB have been talking merger for the past five years. The logic of such a deal has always been impressive. This time, after five years of on-and-off discussions and five years of restructuring and product and management strengthening at TSB, the time to put words into action was deemed to be right.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive at Lloyds, and Peter Ellwood, his opposite number at TSB, started serious discussions a month ago. The approach came from Lloyds.

For Lloyds the logic is clear. The combination of Lloyds Bank and TSB will create a banking and insurance giant with assets of £140 billion, 90,000 staff (more than 70,000 in the UK), pre-tax profits of £2 billion, 3,000 branches, 15 million customers and coverage across Britain. Its branch network will be the biggest of any bank or building society in the country.

Despite their joint statement that the deal would be "in the best interests of customers, staff and shareholders", it is clear that shareholders will do best.

Another banker said: "It is going to be a bloodbath. The economics of the deal are based on keeping 85 per cent of the customers and firing staff."

Sources close to Lloyds said the logic is of "creating a bigger group that can capture the benefits and synergies and pass that on, not only to customers but to shareholders". As for staff, the takeover would create "opportunities".

The geographical fit is good. Lloyds is strongest in the south of England and under-represented in the North. It has only three branches in Scotland. TSB is strongest in the Midlands and the North. Lloyds completed its £1.8 billion acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society in August. C&G mortgages are already being sold through Lloyds branches. If the TSB deal goes ahead, C&G will also be selling its mortgages to TSB customers from early next year.

There will inevitably be overlaps in the branch network, but given the geographical fit, it will not be as extensive as, say, in the case of the merger of the Halifax with the Leeds. The biggest overlap in jobs will come in centralised functions such as Treasury operations.

Richard Coleman, banking



C&G's Andrew Longhurst, left, with Sir Brian Pitman

analyst with Smith New

Court, said he would expect job cuts of 10 to 15 per cent of UK staff. However, he added that since this is an agreed deal, not a hostile one, TSB would have been in a strong negotiating position. The job cuts are expected to be made over time and through a process of natural wastage and voluntary redundancy. He said both Lloyds and TSB have been steadily reducing their headcount over the past few years, so the potential for cost savings is not as dramatic as some in the market yesterday hoped. He said: "It is not like starting with two flabby banks."

TSB brings with it Hill Samuel, its merchant banking arm. While the core merchant bank is not seen as a big attraction for Lloyds, the investment management business is seen as having potential.

For TSB, which had also held talks with Alliance & Leicester with a view to a merger, the logic is in terms of shareholder value. TSB would find it far harder to extract a premium of 25 times book value for its shareholders by taking over a building society. Given TSB's rather downmarket image and its unhappy management record in takeovers, most societies have not been keen to talk merger with the bank.

TSB has also had difficulty persuading the stock market that it has a credible strategy. The bank has a 2 per cent share of the UK mortgage market, is low in the mortgage league tables, and yet insists that mortgages are part of its core strategy. Mr Coleman said: "If that is your

core business, you have a

problem."

From the point of view of price, the deal looks attractive from both sides. Mr Coleman said that even before considering the cost cutting angle, the deal will not dilute Lloyds' earnings next year.

The takeover leaves the other banks, building societies and insurance companies considering their strategies. Analysts predicted that it would spark another wave of mergers and takeovers. One analyst said the move would force banks and building societies to speed up their search for partners.

When Lloyds made its unsuccessful bid for Midland in the spring of 1992 one of the great attractions to Sir Brian Pitman was First Direct, the pioneering telephone banking arm of Midland.

During his tenure as chief executive of Lloyds, Pitman has often been called a banking visionary and, as he looked into the future, he concluded that one of the best ways to substantially increase new business opportunities was through acquisitions or the telephone and other applied technology. In the rationalisation that must follow a Lloyds takeover of TSB, the one area where money and time will be invested in equal measure is telephone banking. Both banks already operate a 24-hour service. LloydsLine hopes to sign up 100,000 customers by the end of the year while TSB's PhoneBank, launched last October and now boasting 200,000 accounts, has replaced the tone-pad Speedlink system.

A newly integrated LloydsLine will still have some way to go to catch up with First Direct, however. Launched

NatWest has said that it is not interested in buying a building society, although an insurance acquisition is not ruled out. Barclays, under its new chief executive Martin Taylor, is not keen on acquisitions, particularly if they affect costs.

Buying another bank is an expensive process. Stock market speculation yesterday said the two Scottish banks, Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland, were put in a difficult position by the merger and there would be pressure on them to merge or make acquisitions. Both have indicated that they would be interested in the right deal at the right price.

Attention is now focused on Nationwide Building Society, Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich and on the mutual insurers and the Prudential and Legal & General.

The three building societies are expected to make moves in the next few months. Woolwich is believed to be working on flotation plans while Alliance & Leicester is working on plans to launch a general insurance operation that could involve a merger with a mutual life company. The Alliance & Leicester has repeatedly refused to comment on flotation talk, but equally will not rule it out.

The Nationwide, having been beaten to National & Provincial by Abbey National, is keen to make a move.



Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of TSB, has been angling for a merger for some time

Why banks talk telephone numbers

When Lloyds made its unsuccessful bid for Midland in the spring of 1992 one of the great attractions to Sir Brian Pitman was First Direct, the pioneering telephone banking arm of Midland.

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A newly integrated LloydsLine will still have some way to go to catch up with First Direct, however. Launched

in 1989 and having just passed the 500,000 customer level, First Direct has become the model for competitors. What Pitman and his board will most struck by in assessing where technology can take Lloyds is that it was only last year — five years after start-up — that First Direct delivered its first profits contribution. Kevin Newman, chief executive of First Direct, said yesterday that to buy First Direct now would cost "hundreds of millions of pounds". Midland's telephone banking arm is signing up customers at the rate of 10,000 a month. That, says Newman, is the equivalent of opening three branches every week.

There are some, however, who argue that now is the time to look beyond the telephone. Joseph De Feo, director of group operations and

technology at Barclays, believes phone banking is just one method of linking banks with their customers. In the future, he says, these networks will encompass personal computers, digital TV channels and the Internet. Nevertheless, Barclays has kept a foot in both camps, having launched Barclaycall last year.



Cost-cutting is one of the driving forces behind electronic banking. As more consumers conduct their banking from home, the banks will require fewer employees in their high street outlets. But the banks insist that electronic banking, in the end, is more about survival than simple cost cutting. In the past, a retail bank could not develop a presence unless it spent vast sums of money to construct a network of branches and train thousands of people. Now, any

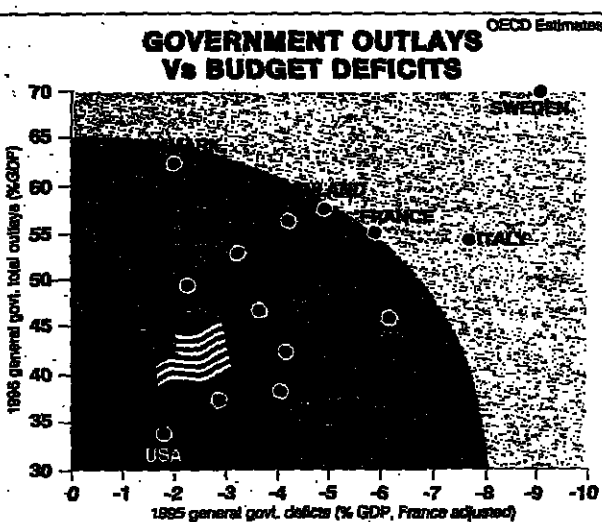
company with direct access to customers can pose a threat to the banks. Financing for a car can be arranged in the showroom, eliminating the need to make a separate visit to a bank. Theoretically, companies such as Microsoft and AT&T, with access to huge chunks of the population through their software and telecoms networks, could develop forms of electronic commerce that include banking. Of course, as non-banks enter the financial services market banks can enter their markets. For example, banks may eventually use electronic networks to package financial services with catalogue shopping.

There are still many hurdles to overcome before this sort of "convergence" becomes commonplace. Using the Internet for banking and shopping is not practical at the moment because it is not secure. Until encryption techniques are perfected, the cleverest hackers might be able to use the Internet to drain a bank account.

ROBERT MILLER
AND ERIC REGULY

Macho policy on the franc weakens French economy

France could soon be challenging Italy in Europe's deficit league



exchange-rate can be an effective weapon, but once inflation has been overcome, targeting a strong currency can force the economy into a straitjacket. The franc fort has become an objective in itself rather than a means to an end.

In France, the fixed exchange rate has forced the economy to grow well below its natural rate. According to the OECD, France had an output gap of 4 per cent of GDP in 1994 — higher than any other country's, except Italy and Finland. The corporate sector has been strangled, as reflected in the massive underperformance of the French stock market. Even the sharp improvement in the current account reflects low relative growth rather than any structural competitive improvement. Perhaps the most

worrying impact of the overvalued franc has been on the budget. OECD figures show France's structural deficit has increased nearly every year since 1987.

The markets have followed the French Government in its obsession with the strong currency and low inflation. But now there is a new target via the EMU convergence criteria: the budget deficit must be cut to 3 per cent of GDP. This target will compete increasingly with the franc fort. That the two targets are in conflict is evidenced by the deterioration of the structural deficit. But the market is only just waking up to this. A poll by my firm last month found 80 per cent of market operators thought France's budget deficit was not much above Germany's. They were shocked to

find it was more than twice as big relative to GDP.

The French have obfuscated their budget situation, publishing figures with much delay and convolution, but the EMU criteria now require more timely data and for the first time the budget will become an issue for the French markets.

France's deficit grew from 1.5 per cent of GDP in 1990 to 6 per cent this year. Concrete and measurable structural reforms are not the French way. The French would rather increase taxes than cut spending. The supposedly rigorous budget plan suggests a zero increase in real government spending in 1996, but this will follow real growth of 1.5 per cent in 1995 and 1 per cent in 1994. French government outlays are now 54 per cent of GDP — the highest in the G7 and higher than in Spain, Italy and Greece (see chart).

The French Government has said its deficit will hit the 3 per cent target by 1997 and will doubtless announce further "measures". In truth, the fiscal situation is deteriorating rapidly. Genuine fiscal realism would require extensive deregulation and spending cuts, plus a flexible exchange rate. The French denounce such advice as an Anglo-Saxon conspiracy, though they have also worked in Finland, Sweden and, to some extent, Italy.

France needs a flexible exchange rate to attain economic prosperity and reduce its budget deficits to Maastricht limits. Unless it changes course it will not only fail to qualify for EMU, but ironically be held responsible for its collapse.

LOUIS BACON
Chairman of Moore Capital Management

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Times 10/10

Recession in building industry 'deepening'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S construction industry is slipping into a "new recessionary crisis", building companies said yesterday.

The industry gave warning of the "political implications" of a continuing building recession as its leaders called on the Government, in the Budget, to seize the "last opportunity" to help. Based on the findings of its latest quarterly state of trade survey, the Building Employers' Confederation

said the construction industry was moving deeper into recession, and that things were going to get worse.

The results of the survey—the first of this quarter's large-scale industrial studies—will make ministers brace themselves for the findings of reports from the chambers of commerce and the CBI within the next fortnight. Building materials producers will reinforce the "gloom" with their survey later today.

Calling on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to announce measures in next month's Budget to boost the industry, the BEC's chief of the Government's Private Finance Initiative, and said the Government had to introduce "more realistic" guidelines.

Its survey shows that output in the industry fell by almost 1 per cent in the third quarter—the third successive quarterly fall—with the rate of decline now increasing.

The balance of firms—those expecting an increase set against those forecasting a fall—believing output will rise over the next 12 months fell back from 18 to 12 per cent. Half of all firms surveyed reported below-normal levels of work, with 42 per cent saying they were having less success in tendering for new work, though new inquiries in the commercial sector were still showing some "modest" growth. Employment in the industry is expected to continue to fall.

Paul Shepherd, BEC chairman, said: "These results show that during the last quarter the situation in construction has continued to deteriorate... and that there is no expectation of an early improvement." He said the Budget was the "last opportunity" to stimulate construction activity.

BT set for French venture

BT is on the verge of fitting one of the biggest pieces in its European jigsaw by forming a joint venture in France. Mike Grabiner, director of BT Europe, said the company should be able to announce the French partnership within a few months. (Eric Reguly writes.)

He would not identify the proposed partner, but it is most likely to be a bank or industrial group that wants to create a presence in the increasingly liberal telecoms sector. Analysts said that Générale des Eaux, Lyonnaise des Eaux and Electricité de France are the most likely industrial candidates.

BT already has joint ventures with Banco Santander in Spain, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Italy and Vins, the German industrial group.

The French joint venture will initially offer data and voice services to corporate customers.



Trevor Spencer, left, and Norman Stubbs, chief executive, saw all seven of Tay's trading areas make a profit

Aran rejects increased bid terms from Arco

By Martin Barrow

ARAN Energy, the oil and gas exploration company, has rejected an increased takeover bid by Atlantic Richfield (Arco).

Arco's latest offer, declared final in the absence of a higher offer by a rival bidder, is worth 160p a share in cash, valuing Aran at £1.178 billion.

The offer will be reduced to 160p a share if Aran's shareholders vote in favour of a proposal to establish a joint venture with Norway's Statoil to develop the Cornemara oilfield off the Irish west coast. The latest offer represents a 60 per cent premium over the Aran share price before the announcement of the original offer.

Arco's increased bid was made after Statoil confirmed

that it was also making a full cash offer for Aran. Statoil's technical staff completed a preliminary evaluation of Aran's assets at the weekend. "We are encouraged by our findings and we are giving our utmost consideration to determining our next action," a spokesman said.

Arco is firmly opposed to the Statoil joint venture, arguing that the loss of sole operational control of the field would represent a diminution in Aran shareholder value. Arco also criticised an independent asset valuation by SSI, the petroleum consultant, and published by Arco, giving an estimated worth of £1.04p a share.

Arco said yesterday that the valuation "strains credibility and, not surprisingly, has

largely been ignored by the market". Aran shares firmed to 73½p yesterday, from 72½p. Aran shareholders vote on October 23. Arco's final offer closes at 1pm the next day.

Arco launched an initial offer of 60p a share for Aran, valuing the company at £1.157 billion, on August 21, which Aran rejected saying it did not take into account the true value of the group's assets.

The last deal price of Aran in Dublin on August 18, the last business day before the announcement of Arco's original offer on August 21, was 12½p.

"This final offer provides full value for all of Aran's assets," Bill Wade, chairman of Arco Irish Holdings, said. "It also gives shareholders the opportunity of securing a value for Aran shares considerably in excess of market prices existing prior to our original offer," he added.

Tay builds profits in hard market

TAY HOMES, the regional housebuilder, increased pre-tax profits to £7.06 million from £6.25 million in the year to June 30, in spite of a difficult housing market (Martin Barrow writes).

Sales improved after a slow start and the number of homes sold rose to 1,559 from 1,308, with average prices improving to £71,700 from £64,700.

Trevor Spencer, the chairman, said: "With the aid of extra new developments opening shortly, the targeted units for the year to June 1996 should be achievable."

All seven trading areas earned a profit, with Yorkshire the most profitable. The Midlands and the North West were adversely affected by the slowdown, but two new regions, western and north Midlands, made contributions for the first time.

Earnings were 15.9p a share (£5.5p). The total dividend rises to 7p a share from 4.5p with a 5.45p final due to be paid on November 25.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Firecrest leaps 71% as turnover slips

FIRECREST, the advertising and marketing group listed on the Alternative Investment Market, unveiled a 71 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £113,000 in the six months to June 30, in spite of a slight drop in turnover. Robert Manning, chairman, predicted stronger growth in the second half, when the group traditionally makes most of its profits, and when major new contracts will have started to bear fruit. Turnover was down from £2.66 million to £2.62 million and earnings per share dipped slightly from 0.46p last time to 0.45p. Fully diluted earnings per share were 0.35p. The directors are not recommending the payment of an interim dividend.

Mr Manning said: "Although it is not reflected in the profits at the interim stage, we have had a successful start to the year with the group winning a number of major contracts. Since the management buyout in 1992, the group has expanded rapidly." Firecrest's core business is the Capper Granger advertising agency and FM, best known for "The Card" it has promoted for The Sunday Times. The group announced on October 2 that it had acquired Nethead Ltd, an access provider to the Internet.

MR-Data cuts payout

MR-DATA MANAGEMENT has cut dividend payments after suffering a sharp downturn in annual profits. The total dividend falls to 3.57p a share from 5.53p, with a 1.5p final due on November 17, after pre-tax profits slumped to £1.31 million from £6.35 million in the year to June 30. Earnings fell to 1.6p a share from 8p. The shares eased 2p to 62p yesterday. Profits were affected by exceptional costs of £2.84 million charged against asset write-downs and excess property rentals.

Ulster engine plant talks

FG WILSON ENGINEERING, one of the world's largest makers of diesel generating sets, is negotiating with Caterpillar, the Illinois earth-moving-equipment group, to establish a diesel-engine plant at Larne, Co Antrim, employing up to 500 people. Negotiations with the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board over the level of start-up support that might be forthcoming, are known to be at an advanced stage, although the board would make no comment on the potential inward investment.

Vimto buys packer

JN NICHOLS (Vimto), the manufacturer of soft drinks, vending ingredients and catering products, has acquired Stockpack, a subsidiary of Bodycote International, for £4.7 million. Stockpack is a contract packing company serving the dry goods industry and produces high volumes of towlelettes used in the fast food industry and by airlines. In 1994, it earned profits of £1.2 million. Net assets were £5.9 million at the year end. A dividend of £4.3 million was paid to Bodycote immediately before completion.

Dividend doubled

FORWARD TECHNOLOGY, the electronics company, has doubled the interim dividend to 1p a share after lifting profits to £812,000 before tax from £340,000 in the half year to June 30. Earnings improved to 1.9p a share from 0.8p. However, the shares fell 8½p to 86p yesterday. Profits from the electronics division improved to £56,000 from £16,000, while the sound and vision division improved to £478,000 from £244,000. Further growth is expected in both divisions this year. The interim dividend is due on November 30.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FRANCHISES

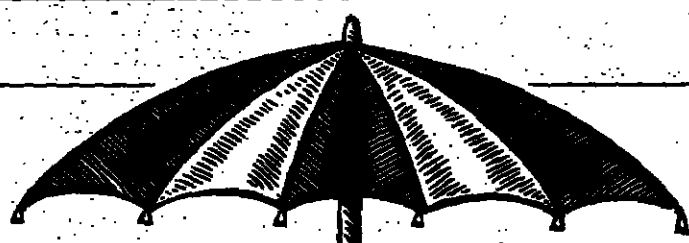
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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 1993

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

With the first full retrospective of Cézanne in years, Paris casts a fresh eye on the artist's enduring legacy



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while the Hermitage sends its great Clérisseau collection to the Louvre

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OPERA

Valery Gergiev takes the podium at the Albert Hall as the Kirov triumphs with its wonderful Prince Igor



■ TOMORROW

John Osborne may have given *A Patriot For Me* an Austrian flavour but his barbs were aimed at England

Richard Cork on a Paris show that defines Cézanne's genius and strips away his mask

A mastery of mind and matter

Cézanne's achievement broods over 20th-century art with the unassailable grandeur of Mont Saint-Victoire, the mass of craggy Provençal rock dominating so many of his finest landscapes. Although he died in 1906, the course of modern Western painting has been profoundly affected by his tenacious legacy. Cézanne's name took on a holy ring, as if he alone possessed the key to pictorial truth. The image of a stern law-giver threatened to become oppressive, giving him a reputation for coldness and Olympian detachment.

Now, at last, Paris has provided us with the chance to see Cézanne afresh. In the first full retrospective to have been organised for decades, he is revealed as an artist utterly unlike the deity of legend. The show begins on a pious note, admittedly in *Homage to Cézanne*, painted in 1900. Maurice Denis shows a cluster of young artists, including Bonnard and Vuillard, gazing, like spellbound disciples, at one of the Master's paintings. But one glance at Cézanne's early work in the room beyond is enough to shatter the myth.

The truth is that the young Cézanne was a turbulent and wildly uneven artist, powered by fiery emotions and a violent way with paint. His 1866 study of a *Skull and Candle* is thick with clotted pigment, piled on to the canvas by a man who wields his palette-knife like a weapon. Preoccupied even at this stage with mortality, he was even more in thrall to visions of rape and murder. Women are usually seen as victims in these dark, barbaric scenes. One female figure, almost hidden in a thunderous nocturnal landscape, howls as she is stabbed by a man whose face is obscured by his remorseless, upraised arm. Another woman, naked this time and blanched with terror, is carried off into equally gloomy countryside by her sun-bronzed captor.

These paintings are the work of an out-and-out romantic, prey to fantasies of orgies at a sumptuous Venetian feast. His headlong handling shows how powerfully he was impelled to rebel against well-mannered art. There is nothing refined about the way in which he heaps paint on to the furrowed surface of his full-length portrait of Achilles Emperaire. The frail, huddled sinner almost seems buried in layers of murky pigment, but Emperaire emerges from the churned background with his dignity enhanced.

By the time Cézanne finished this ambitious effigy, though, he wanted to change. He had already succeeded, the previous year, in producing an impressive picture of a woman

playing the *Tannhäuser* overture with complete placidity. Neither she nor her even more serene companion, who sews on a nearby settee, betrays any sign of overwhelming Wagnerian uplift. Only the curling patterns in the wallpaper behind them seem agitated, and ready to take flight. The rest of this tautly organised, radically flattened image is reined in by a man determined now to control his blazing emotions.

The task was far from easy. Although Cézanne commenced the 1870s with an admirably controlled little study of trees at his Aix-en-Provence family home, he could not suppress his volcanic imaginings for long. In front of nature, whether scrutinising the pink and blue roof-

tops of Auvers or a basket of delectable apples in the studio, he was able to discipline his unruly feelings and contain them within a more classical structure. But once he broke away from observation of the world, and began playing with themes as arousing as *A Modern Olympia*, all the old tempestuousness

returned. A heavily bearded man, who bears an inescapable resemblance to the artist himself, stares up at a naked odalisque with undisguised hunger. The reference to Manet's *Olympia* is clear enough, signifying Cézanne's involvement with the painters who embraced the Impressionist cause. All the same, the bearded voyeur's devouring gaze is very far removed from Manet's coolness. Cézanne still could not prevent himself from painting women with predatory fervour, and in *The Eternal Feminine* he gave vent to his most untrammelled feelings about the fair-haired, centrally placed nude lounging on an elaborate bed. Menjostle around her, all transfixed by the woman's body. A bishop is detectable in the mêlée, and trumpets are blown as the tousled artist swings away from his easel to lean greedily in her direction.

Unlike the earlier fantasy pictures, though, *The Eternal Feminine* eschews thick paint. Cézanne also shapes the tent-like sheet above her into a pyramid as firm as the Mont Saint-Victoire. His brushmarks are more orderly, too, with an emphasis on diagonal, hatched strokes rather than the former impetuosity. Cézanne was deliberately curbing his youthful fire—or rather, subsuming it within a more systematic and coherent language.

Even so, Cézanne never pretended that he had arrived at a definitive resolution of his conflicting impulses. His work always shows signs of struggle, and gains much of its vitality from openly declared tensions. If he had not been powered by



Cézanne's *Peasant in a Blue Blouse* "draws his hardness from the sustaining light of Provence"

such ardent emotions, his increasing emphasis on order may have led his art towards cerebral dryness. But the principal excitement of this superb exhibition lies in his perpetual and wonderfully fruitful tussle between romantic ardour and classical control. However hard he tried to arrive at an art of overwhelming finality, Cézanne's sensitivity to the slightest shifts in perception never let him lapse into smugness or grandiloquence. The great sequence of Mont Saint-Victoire canvases are among the most imposing works he produced. But as we see him striving for an elevated monumentality, above all worthy of his hero Poussin, the different versions also testify to his continually altering responses.

That is why he returned to the same set of subjects. Cézanne may in later years have led a quiet, almost monastic life, shut away in a home town far removed from the metropolis. But as he turned his attention from landscapes and still-lives to portraits and back again, the recluses of Aix found himself engaged in a momentous voyage of exploration. Acknowledging at every turn that he had not yet succeeded in attaining his goal, Cézanne nevertheless managed to produce a prodigious number of superlative paintings.

The *Peasant in a Blue Blouse* is constructed with as much flinty strength as the earlier painting of rocks at L'Estaque. But he is portrayed sympathetically as well, by an artist who believed that his local countrymen deserved to be celebrated with understanding and affection. The peasant seems rooted in the same sunbeaten earth as the great pine he painted so often in the 1890s. Both subjects, the man and the tree, draw their hardness from the sustaining light of Provence.

So did Cézanne, even when he felt his bodily stamina faltering. Far from easing off, the old man embarked instead on the most ambitious compositions of his career. Two of the triumvirate of large bathers canvases have been lent to Paris, and they bring this magnificent show to an overwhelming conclusion. In one respect, the *Grandes Baigneuses* compositions mark a return to the early period. Cézanne reawakens his fantasies about naked women, and the distortions he inflicts on their bodies are astonishingly brusque. But there is no trace now of rape or murderous intent. The beefy nudes ranged across the front of the National Gallery's vision are intact, unthreat-

ened and confident in their own solidity.

Compared with the later and more titanic version from Philadelphia, however, the London picture looks curiously laboured. Worked on and worried over from 1894 to 1905, it lacks the vivacity of the American canvas. Executed in his final year, and possibly unfinished, the Philadelphia painting is a marvel. Cézanne defines the women with far more swift, summarising assurance, leaving generous areas of untouched white canvas to shine through crisply. As a result, the whole picture is quickened with a rush of light and air. However substantial this congregation of bathers may be, their bulk is alleviated by the deftness of Cézanne's brushmarks.

The gathering exuberance reaches its apotheosis in the sky, where trees are allowed to stretch far higher than in the early version. They form an immense arch above the nudes, investing the scene with the awesomeness of a Gothic cathedral. At once protective and straining to be free, they exemplify Cézanne's own desire to rest securely in the earth even as he soars as high as his imagination can aspire.

● Cézanne at the Grand Palais, Paris (0033) 44131717 until Jan 7

Russians save the day

OPERA: The Kirov's *Prince Igor* climbs to new heights, but *Roméo et Juliette* lacks lustre

Two events of outstanding interest framed the weekend's music in London: Sunday night brought John Eliot Gardiner conducting Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* and Friday, what will doubtless remain one of the highlights of the year, the Kirov Opera's semi-staged gala performance of *Prince Igor*.

As a packed Royal Albert Hall suggested, the Kirov's visits have become red-letter occasions, and in its magnificence this one surpassed even previous appearances. Bringing more than 200 singers and players to London to stage Borodin's sprawling masterpiece on a small raked platform as a "one-off" presented the organisers, the Friends of the Kirov Opera, with a catalogue of logistical nightmares, but such enterprise repays itself both the St Petersburg company, to which the proceeds go, and London's opera-goers, starved of Russian fare this season, will have benefited considerably.

Indeed, with the Royal Opera's planned revival of Borodin's opera now apparently off, memory of this *Igor* may have to serve for some time. No company is better qualified than the Kirov, either historically — *Igor* was premiered in St Petersburg's Maryinsky Theatre in 1890 — or in terms of its current vocal strength, to perform the work. Nor is there a conductor better able than the Kirov's chief, Valery Gergiev, to capture the noble quality of the four-hour performance with such consistency. He drew "playing of warm, expressive freedom."

Although the music supplies nearly all of the drama in *Igor*, the producer Alexey Stepanuk was resourceful in bringing the series of epic scenes to life in the Albert Hall. Four dancers provided much of the movement, costumes were effective, and Vladimir Lukasevich's lighting imaginative. Without the dramatic tension that can compensate in some operas for merely efficient singing, *Igor* requires magnificent singing to succeed — and that is what it got here.

Galina Gorchakova, the Kirov's prima donna, was more heartrending than ever as Yaroslava. Her top notes have never sounded with such lustrous accuracy, and after her recent vocal trouble it was reassuring to hear her maintain her tone through to the final act, where she delivered the *Lament* in magnificent, arching lines. It was a treat to encounter Larissa Diadkova's coppery contralto as Konchakova: she brought more amorous allure to her Cavatina than Olga Borodina displays on the Kirov's recent recording. One

moment's faltering apart, Vladimir Galuzin was a splendid Vladimir.

Lower down the vocal range, Mikhail Kit (Igor), Sergey Alexashkin (Gaisky) and Bulat Minzhiliev (Konchak) were all solid, but less exciting than their colleagues. The smaller roles showed customary depth of Kirov casting, with a notable debut from the fresh soprano Elmira Magomedova, a graduate this year from the St Petersburg Conservatory. The excellent chorus was on its usual, disciplined form.

Though Borodin's opera can succeed without full dramatic trappings, Berlioz's "Symphonie dramatique" is so operatic in its musical drama that it seldom fails to evoke scenes in the mind's ear. But on Sunday at Drury Lane, Gardiner and his Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique only intermittently brought *Roméo et Juliette* to vivid life.



John Eliot Gardiner: something missing

the sense of discovery they almost always communicate was missing from a performance which at times sounded simply like an exercise in playing the score on period instruments.

At least the arrangement of the musicians in tiers, precisely as Berlioz specified, brought some revelations. Harps were out in front of the orchestra, and, for the Queen Mab Scherzo, the antique cymbals too — their brittleness, combined with fluttering strings, made the scherzo seem more than ever like fairies' music.

Soloists (Catherine Robbin, Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, Gilles Cachemaille: all fine but too light for this music) and chorus were also placed at the front. The Monteverdi Choir sang splendidly, not least in the dark, forbidding of the Second Prologue, a movement cut by the composer in 1846 and restored here — beautifully orchestrated by Oliver Knussen — for the first time.

JOHN ALLISON

AROUND THE PARIS GALLERIES: OTHER RECOMMENDED EXHIBITIONS

survey, lent by the Hermitage in St Petersburg, is something of a homecoming.

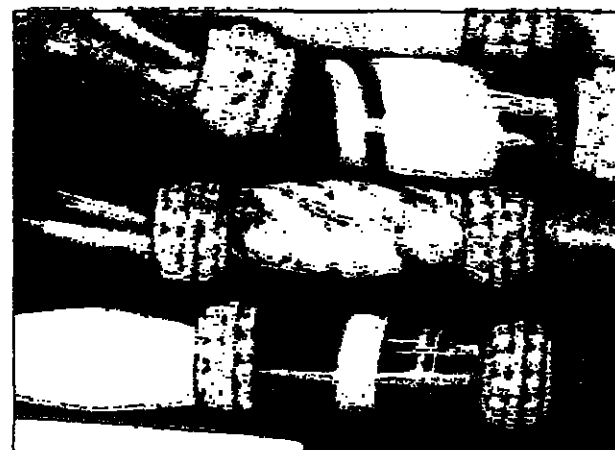
Shortly after winning the Prix de Rome for architecture in 1749, he was commissioned by Adam to produce drawings of the palace of Diocletian at Spalatro. Later, Clérisseau was employed by Catherine the Great to execute views of the antique monuments in the

South of France. The Louvre exhibition is filled with deftly executed drawings and watercolours of classical views. In 1771, Adam invited Clérisseau to London, where he exhibited with considerable success at the Royal Academy. Then he spent some time in Russia; but the deftness of his response to antique buildings is, in the end, quintessentially French.

The Louvre has also mounted a beguiling survey of *Precious Stones from the Ancient Orient*, concentrating on the jewellery produced by some of the earliest recorded civilisations. Starting with the Sumerians, this elegantly installed show combines information and aesthetic pleasure in equal measure. We are told a great deal about the materials employed in these objects, and how they were fashioned. But we are also allowed to see the jewels themselves in the most favourable light. *Clérisseau and Precious Stones continue at the Louvre (00331 40205050) until Dec 18.*

RICHARD CORK

□ The Grande Halle de la Villette, a huge glass and cast iron structure of the kind in which one might expect to encounter, say, a motor show, is hardly anybody's idea of a gallery. But then it *était une fois la fête Foraine*... is hardly anybody's idea of a gallery exhibition. Dedicated to fairground arts between



Some of the precious stones from the ancient Orient which are on show at the Louvre until December

1850 and 1950, it has its quota of the ghoulish and bizarre: the principal side show reconstructed is the Museum Spitzer, one of those Victorian wax museums full of Siamese twins, and gruesome reconstructions of the effects of drink and venery on the human body. There are also functioning roundabouts and big wheels, and an early cinema tent. But the heart of the show is the selection of fairground carvings: roundabout animals, Aunt Sallies and side show façades. *Grande Halle de la Villette, 211 Avenue Jean Jaurès (40 03 75 03) until Jan 14.*

□ The Musée de la Vie Romantique is one of Paris's

more charming small, tucked-away museums: formerly the home and studio of the early 19th-century painter Ary Scheffer, it specialises in shows of art from this period. At the moment the subject is David's pupil Georges Rouget (1783-1869), an important official painter from the first Napoleon. No one would maintain that he was a great artist, and a number of his salon pictures on religious and mythological themes are decidedly saccharine. But the show is fascinating in the way it exposes the mechanics of official patronage.

Just down the road is an absorbing related exhibition on *L'Exposition de 1846 du 'Bazar Bonne Nouvelle'*. This

was the first outing of the newly formed association des Artistes, primarily a charitable foundation for needy artists, which was founded by Baron Taylor, great art patron of the period. This show celebrates the association's 150th anniversary, and is distinguished by some wonderful Ingres drawings and paintings by less familiar artists like Scheffer.

Musée de la Vie Romantique, 16 rue Chaptal (43 74 95 38) until Dec 17.

Association des Artistes, 1 rue la Bruyère (43 74 85 24) until Oct 28.

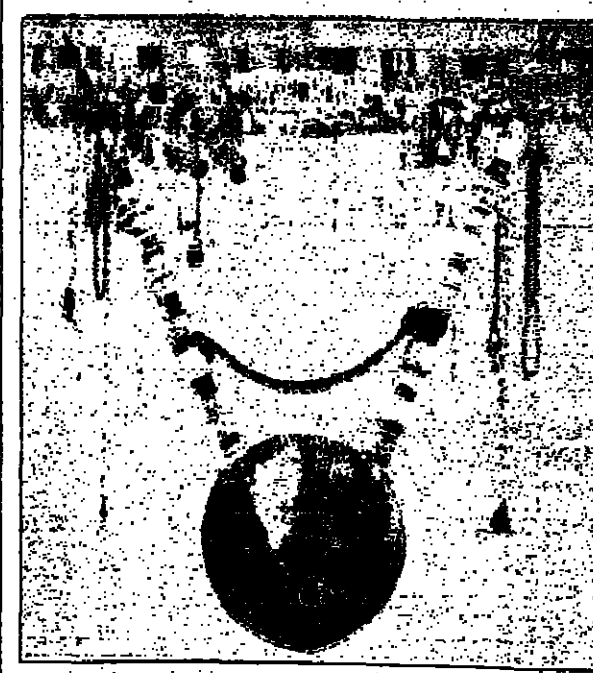
□ Around 1909-10 the composer Arnold Schoenberg went through a crisis in his emotional and musical development. At this period of emotional see-sawing, he took up painting with great passion, and executed a long series of self-portraits and portraits of relations and friends like Alban Berg. This outburst of creative activity in an alien art-form is chronicled in the exhibition *Arnold Schoenberg: Regards at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 Avenue du Président Wilson (40 70 11 10) until Dec 3.*

Musée du Louvre, rue de Rivoli (40 20 51 51) until Dec 18.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items featured in the Royal Academy's current exhibition, *Africa — The Art of a Continent*



Lyre, Nubia, Sudan, late 19th century, wood, leather, gut, glass, cowries, 101 x 95 x 20 cm

In Sudan it is believed that evil spirits can enter the body or mind and cause pain. Musical instruments such as this are used in zar ceremonies, in which the spirits are exorcised through the musician's skills. The wooden arms and crossbars of this example are coiled with beads, from which hundreds of cowries and coins hang to produce a jangling effect when the instrument is moved. A few of the coins here are British in origin: one is a halfpenny from 1861 with the head of Queen Victoria.

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LITERATURE



Walter Mosley's novels have brought him fame as a crime writer. Now he's taking a new direction

ICE SHOW



A formula which has conquered the globe: Disney brings *Aladdin* to Wembley, complete with skates

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

As their current British tour proves, Pulp haven't lost their quirky charm, despite the trappings of success

MUSIC



A world premiere in Norwich Cathedral from the spiritual pen of the composer John Tavener

Six more strings to his MO

Why has top crime writer Walter Mosley got the blues? Giles Coren reports

Walter Mosley's first four novels have made him one of the most famous crime writers in America. He is Bill Clinton's favourite author and a bestseller in 18 countries. Yet his first novel, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, was published only in 1990, when he was 38.

Now Mosley stands at a crossroads, his career about to take off in a number of new directions. *Devil in a Blue Dress* has been made into a film starring Denzel Washington (it was released in America in August), and a new "straight" novel about the blues, *RL's Dream*, is published on Thursday.

His corps of mystery fans need not break into a sweat, however: he has no plans to abandon the genre. He has just finished *Little Yellow Dog*, his fifth tale featuring black detective Easy Rawlins.

Despite the crime writing tag, Mosley's first four novels were always something more than that and Rawlins, their narrator and hero, is by no means a black Phillip Marlowe. He is just a man who wants to lead a quiet, respectable, middle-class life, but finds himself constantly drawn into the maelstrom of South Central Los Angeles. The first book was set in 1948, and each subsequent novel picks up Rawlins's story a few years after the end of the previous one, allowing him to change, marry, have children and observe the upheavals in post-war black America at a leisurely pace.

"There are a lot of things you can do with a crime novel, socially and politically, because of the way you come at your audience," Mosley says. "People read mysteries who aren't at all concerned with black people in South Central LA. But they'll read a good story."

Mosley has indeed done more than just offer a black context to the familiar post-war Los Angeles crime novel. "I didn't even know I was writing a mystery until I was



"There are a lot of things you can do with a crime novel, socially and politically, because of the way you come at your audience," Walter Mosley says

half way through *Devil in a Blue Dress*," he says. "I was working as a computer programmer and I just wrote a few sentences. I had read enough books to know that they were good sentences. So I carried on writing."

Now, at the very moment Rawlins makes his screen debut, Mosley has tried his first novel away from the mystery genre. "It wasn't planned like this, but the timing has turned out to be perfect," he says. "I didn't want to become the servant of Easy Rawlins. I really like him, but I don't think of myself as a crime writer. I would like to be known, simply, as a writer."

RL's Dream tells the story of Soupy Sales, an old guitarist who once played with the legendary Robert "RL" Johnson, who died in mysterious circumstances in 1938.

"It has a lot in common with my stories about Easy," Mos-

ley says. "I haven't travelled so far. Both are about the life, the fate, the hopes and aspirations of a black man who is heroic in some ways, but flawed. They are both about experiences in black parts of America that haven't been talked about much in literature. They are about language, black language, and the books are carried along by those rhythms."

"When I first decided to write about Robert Johnson, I thought I might do it as a mystery. But that would have trivialised him. When you get taken up so much with plot you can't get as deep into psychology. Plus, of course, I only had one book to get it all down. We will keep on learning about Easy for ever."

Easy's perspective on racism, for example, is one that

develops in response to changing events. In *RL's Dream*, the situation is different. "Race plays a part," Mosley says, "but it is not very clear how. Everybody is racist, and nobody is racist. In the Easy

difference. He is old and he is dying and now he wants to

black people in the Mississippi Delta in the 1930s right up to the 1960s. In the 1990s it is a different sort of oppression. When white people saw Rodney King being beaten up by white policemen on television they thought, 'That's terrible', thinking it was an unusual event. Black people saw it and said, 'This is what happened to us every day, in every city, for three centuries.'

"When black Americans celebrated O.J. Simpson's acquittal, they were not celebrating the murder of two white people, which is how some commentators saw it. They genuinely believed he was innocent. And, for once, a black man had got the justice that always seemed reserved for whites. The blues is still out there. It's just different."

● *RL's Dream* is published by Serpent's Tail (£9.99)

I didn't want to become the servant of Easy Rawlins. I don't think of myself as a crime writer

books these issues are clearer, the story carries more of the complexity.

"Now, in this book the story is simple. An old man is kicked out of his apartment, and no one cares about him because he is an old man. He could have been an old white man, it wouldn't have made a

difference. He is old and he is dying and now he wants to black people in the Mississippi Delta in the 1930s right up to the 1960s. In the 1990s it is a different sort of oppression. When white people saw Rodney King being beaten up by white policemen on television they thought, 'That's terrible', thinking it was an unusual event. Black people saw it and said, 'This is what happened to us every day, in every city, for three centuries.'

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The mouse empire applies its commercial magic to a skating spectacular

Garish icing on the Disney cake

Soon there will be no area of human endeavour into which the mighty mouse has not stuck his paw. Already we have Disney films, stage musicals, television channels, theme-parks and shops stuffed full of kiddie-dazzling Disney merchandise.

Disney is said to be preparing a bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games. It cannot be long before it takes over the running of a small country.

In the meantime, 25 European cities have been selected to receive this Disney ice show, which plays for three weeks at Wembley before moving on to enthrall the toddling classes of Birmingham, Sheffield, Aberdeen and Manchester. It won't surprise those who study the corporate structure of present-day mass entertainment to learn that Walt Disney's World on ice is in fact an ice-show version of

Disney's animated-film musical, *Aladdin*. Thus the film serves as advertisement for the live show, and vice versa.

That is the formula which has conquered the globe, and it clearly works here. Was I the only person in Wembley Arena who didn't already know, cherish and pipe out Sir Tim Rice's majestic lyrics for *Whole New World*, as Aladdin and Princess Jasmine swept over our heads on their magic carpet? So it seemed. And most of those around me (admittedly, nearly all under the age of 14) even knew the dialogue off by heart, and joined in the best bits. Like:

"Baddies, chasing Aladdin: 'Look out, he's got a sword.' Chief Baddie, and entire audience: 'Idiot! We've all got swords!'"

But perhaps that snatch of merry banter gives a false impression of the evening. Its producer, Kenneth Feld — the impresario who now owns Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey — has certainly brought across the razzmatazz of a big American circus. But his show is spectacularly bereft of humour, either verbal or slapstick. You can find more irony on a bus ticket than on the ice at Wembley. Nor is it a night of great

skating, notwithstanding the odd cartwheel from the athletic Aladdin of Armen Saakian.

It is, however, clinically organised family entertainment, built on the twin pillars of lavish production values (costumes and sets are splendidly gaudy, even if the shocking purples and yellows would make Armani wince) and an exuberant, noisy wholesomeness. There is an amazing skating elephant (how did the men inside keep it upright?), and a horrible 40ft monster that spouts fire and dry ice; and (for the dads) the usual kick-line of leggy love-lies in feathers and not much else. Those who abhor anything to which the adjective "cute" could be applied should definitely stay away. Millions won't.

RICHARD MORRISON

Spokesman for the common people

AFTER over a decade in the pop wilderness, Pulp are now being showered with fame's confetti, John Street writes. A headlining appearance at the Glastonbury Festival has been accompanied by Top Ten hits, second place in the 1994 Mercury Music Prize, and even tabloid newspaper coverage over their current song, *Sorted for 3's and Wizz*.

Lead singer Jarvis Cocker has featured in fashion photo spreads, introduced *Top of the Pops* and delivered *bons mots* on breakfast television and quiz shows.

But for all the obvious features of their fame, they still retain a quirky, anachronistic charm. On the conventionally famous, fans bestow flowers and knickers; for Pulp, they throw ties.

Pulp exist in a time warp.

POP
Pulp
UEA, Norwich

caught between the past and the present. They dress as if inhabiting some lost photograph album in which youthful fashions are cruelly exposed — the dodgy dress sense that once seemed supremely cool. Russell Senior, violinist and guitarist, is in white jeans and wraparound sunglasses; Cocker sports dark slacks and a striped shirt with plain collar and cuffs (from the fashion house of Alex "Hurricane" Higgins).

His performance consists of a series of poses, exaggerated twists, extended arms and

fingers. Against an op-art array of circles, he creates those silhouettes that once inhabited the credits of *The Avengers* or *Bond* films. In his more languid moments, his style resembles the long forgotten Dave Berry, while his voice echoes the melodramatic desperation of David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust.

None of this, though, quite explained the extraordinary exhilaration of Pulp's stage show. Certainly, Cocker is a captivating figure, made all the more endearing by his louche manner and droll asides; and it is easy to overlook the rest of the band, as they stand around him, giving away nothing. Yet they are crucial to Pulp's success, as they slip easily from a passionate climax to a lilting ska beat.

The key, in the end, is the songs. Many of the best — *Babies*, *Do You Remember the First Time*, *Common People* — have a slightly despairing melancholy to them. Pulp have an unerring eye for the mundane circumstances of desire, in their references to Sheffield's Stanhope Road, to "cushions and TV and tables set for tea", to "the woodchip on the wall".

The melancholia is, however, resolutely refused by choruses that defy the gloom. When the stagelights turn fully on the audience, it is obvious that everyone is happily remembering the first time ("I can't remember a worse time") gleefully celebrating their previously private embarrassment and reveling in their once secret obsessions.

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LAW

● TIMES LAW AWARDS 39
● LAW REPORT 42

Shoddy firms and a cranky complaints system ruin clients, says Gary Slapper



In nine years Mel Simons, a builder, has gone through three firms of lawyers and £30,000 in legal fees to recover a £4,500 debt from a customer

A woeful performance

About 600 complaints a week have been landing on the desks of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau (SCB) this year. This level of dissatisfaction is quite alarming, especially as complaints can go to the SCB only if the complainant procedure at the firm in question has been exhausted.

Last week another blow was delivered to the reputation of solicitors by the Consumers' Association report, *Rough Justice*, published in its *Which?* magazine. The report evoked a furious response from the Law Society, which attacked its methodology, and also from the Northampton firm Shoemith & Harrison, which issued a libel writ. Based on undercover research on 80 firms by investigators posing as clients, it alleged that solicitors often make potentially costly mistakes, and give shoddy and inappropriate advice.

It is now estimated that one in three of the civil cases coming to the appeal courts involve "litigants in person" — people litigating without a lawyer. Going it alone in the higher courts is usually dictated by lack of means, but it can also result from sheer desperation with the sometimes farcical incompetence of some lawyers. For many victims of lawyers' shoddy work, the problems are exacerbated by the ponderous way in which complaints are dealt with by the officially designated bodies, the SCB and the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal.

The Law Society is now considering how to improve the current system of dealing with complaints against lawyers. It was recently suggested that the SCB should be re-

placed by a semi-independent agency chaired by a distinguished lay person. The National Consumer Council, whose damning report on the system prompted the Law Society to rethink its complaints procedure, opposed the idea of any system which was run wholly or partly by lawyers. It contends that the best form of complaints office would be one entirely independent of the Law Society.

This debate has been intensified by a proposal by Martin Mears, the Law Society president, that the SCB should be abolished and all complaints that could not be dealt with by the solicitors in question should be handled by a department of the Law Society called the Client Care Unit.

Desperation with the farcical incompetence of some lawyers means people act for themselves

At present, many of the worst cases do not even go to the SCB. Mel Simons's case is one. In 1987 Mr Simons, a Staffordshire builder, did a house restoration for a client. The client did not pay the final £4,500 bill, so Mr Simons hired a lawyer to sue for the money. Three firms of lawyers and nine years later, Mr Simons has now paid £30,000 in legal fees and has still failed to gain anything from the customer. The last person Mr Simons wants to see adjudicate any complaint he may make is another lawyer.

As many of the 20,000 annual complaints and queries take years for the SCB to

process, the option of this procedure is not regarded favourably by frustrated clients such as Mr Simons. The first firm of lawyers used by Mr Simons took two years over a fairly simple case. They failed properly to instruct experts on behalf of their client, and when the case was consequently lost, even the County Court judge commented upon the woeful performance — by those Mr Simons had paid well to represent his interests.

Spurred on by the judge's comments, Mr Simons telephoned the Law Society to ask for the name of a firm competent to sue other lawyers. The firm recommended turned out to be worse than the one from which he wanted compensation. The second firm pre-

pared a file, and then all went quiet. The case against the first firm was lost because the lawyer forgot about it, and failed to appear in court on the listed day. Mr Simons only realised that he had lost again when bailiffs arrived to collect for the firm he had sued.

The second errant lawyer immediately admitted his fault but said that his insurers would pay only if he was sued. Thus the by now desperate Mr Simons had to go to yet another firm of lawyers. His third firm, after another two years on the case, has just recommended that he settle the case on terms which would leave him in no better position than he would have been in had he not gone to that firm.

Mr Simons is now looking for an experienced litigator to assist him *pro bono*, but, despite the Lord Chief Justice's recent exhortation to lawyers — echoed last week by Tony Blair — to work more without charge, he has not been lucky.

The prospect of using the notoriously dilatory Solicitors Complaints Bureau is unattractive. Even if his complaint were upheld, compensation from that body is limited to £1,000. Appeal to the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, and thence to the Legal Services Ombudsman, would add further years to the saga and, even if successful, could result in unenforceable "recommendations" that compensation be paid to the aggrieved client.

The Bar is beginning to review its own complaints procedures before Parliament does so. Last year, the Bar Standards Review proposed an independent complaints bureau with powers to award compensation against barristers found guilty of carrying out shoddy work. The bureau, details of which are still to be approved by the Bar Council, will probably be set up by the end of 1996. It will have powers to fine barristers up to £2,000 and to order them to repay a client's fees. Members of the Bar Council would be expected to fund the bureau's annual £160,000 costs with an average increase in fees of about £20.

Various reports by consumer associations have recently attacked aspects of the delivery of legal services. One, by Dr Neville Harris of the University of Liverpool, surveyed 60 firms of solicitors and 301 clients. Dr Harris found that

for their legal skills but as players on the field," he says.

SOLICITORS last week were amused at how Peter Goldsmith QC, Bar chairman, found himself with two almost identical engagements on the same day — the commercial court centenary celebrations and the official opening of the legal year. "Typical barrister — double booked as usual," one said.

Brush up on law

MACEFARLANES and Allen & Overy are backing two trainee solicitors, Gerald Montagu and Mark Weston, co-authors of a guide to some of the procedural steps of everyday law. Due out this week, *The Legal Practice Companion* (from Central Law Training, 0121-355 0900) is likely to appeal to students and to solicitors wanting to brush up.

SCRIVENOR

Law reporting enters a new era

This month, the semi-official Law Reports celebrate 130 years of valuable service to the legal community. The next decade is likely to see considerable changes in the means by which court judgments are reported to lawyers.

The task of the law reporter has never been easy, struggling to hear, and then make coherent, the utterances of a demanding judiciary. In 1704, Chief Justice Holt complained that the inadequacy of certain law reports "will make us appear to posterity for a parcel of blockheads". In a Court of Appeal judgment in 1953, Lord Justice Denning commented on the defective law reporting at the end of the 18th century by Mr Espinasse, of whom "it is said that he only heard half of what went on and reported the other half".

Standards of law reporting dramatically improved after 1865, when the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting began to publish the Law Reports. Today, lawyers have no cause to doubt the accuracy of reports of judgments. But, despite the growth of specialist law reports, indispensable for the serious practitioner, two main problems remain in modern law reporting: lack of comprehensive coverage, and delays in publication.

In an 1891 decision, an Irish judge stated that "nothing can be more in point than the *Killing of Foreshore* case", with no more detail in the law report than an unhelpful footnote explaining that the case was unreported. Some important modern decisions remain unreported. In 1992, the House of Lords dismissed a judicial review challenge to the Independent Television Commission's allocation of a Channel 3 licence. The judgment includes important statements of legal principle but the editors of the Law Reports, the All England Law Reports and other series have declined to print its contents. So increasingly faint photocopies are handed to opposing counsel and to judges, like samizdat versions of works of Pasternak or Solzhenitsyn in the Soviet Union of the 1960s.

There are considerable delays in the reporting of important judgments. Although most House of Lords decisions now appear in print within a month of being handed down, significant decisions of the Court of Appeal and the High Court are often reported (if at all) several months after delivery. The excellent summary Law Reports published in *The Times* (and some other newspapers and journals) inform lawyers about the decision in leading cases within days of the judgment being delivered in court, but only a small proportion of cases can be covered.

In a legal system based on precedent, law reporting matters. An impressive new venture has attempted to rectify some of the defects in the scope, and the timing, of law reporting. New Law Publishing, in association with Oxford University Press, is now providing a service by which subscribers receive, by fax or by e-mail, a detailed digest of notable decisions of the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords on the same day as judgment is given. The service is delivered under three headings: cases in property, commercial and criminal law. Subscribers can, for additional payments, order the full text of the decisions in which they are interested for same-day delivery.

The service is moderately priced, reliable and reasonably comprehensive in relation to the decisions of English courts. It needs to extend its coverage of judgments of the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg, where quick and efficient access to decisions would be much welcomed by practitioners. There is need for improvement in a system in which the European Court Reports for 1993 have not yet been published in English because of delays in translation and a decision to press on with later reports.

In 1939, the Lord Chancellor appointed a committee to advise him how to answer complaints from the legal profession that "the great number of law reports was causing difficulty" because of their multiplicity, the expense, and the pressure on space. Despite the problems of war, the committee found time to report. But although it recognised the "inconveniences, to say the least, in the present state of affairs", it was unable to recommend "any cure for them which would not bring greater evils in its train".

Developments in information technology now offer solutions which will produce fundamental changes in the character of law reporting. The information superhighway is unlikely to bypass Chancery Lane. In the not too distant future, judges will hand down their judgments by computer link, the text being instantly available to those with the appropriate technology. One day soon, lawyers may be able not only to see pornography on the Internet, but also to read the latest Court of Appeal judgment on the law of obscenity as soon as it is delivered.

There are, of course, disadvantages in having access to all this information. How much more convenient for lawyers and judges only to consider cases selected by the editors of the Law Reports. Clients are likely to prefer the judgment of a former Lord Chancellor, Francis Bacon: "Knowledge is power."

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Inside knowledge

THE LAW Society came out with guts blazing in response to last Thursday's *Which?* report accusing solicitors of handing out "shoddy, inappropriate advice". Indeed, a four-page briefing to the press revealed impressive knowledge of the research techniques employed by the magazine. This might be because the society's new press officer, David McNeill, used to work for the National Consumers' Council. He was behind the NCC's damning report last December on the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which hammered a hefty nail into its coffin.

Short of work

THE BAR's fears that the Government's legal aid re-

OUTS

forms will cut barristers out of the legal aid equation have not been allayed. If solicitors hold the legal aid purse strings, argues the Bar, they will stop hiring barristers.

Sir Tim Chessells, the Legal Aid Board chairman, gave the Bar little cause for comfort at its recent conference. Pressed on how quality would be safeguarded under a contract system, he admitted: "Until we get into the detail of working out a contract it is not clear exactly how we can put in safeguards."

In the big league

LONDON firms Nicholson Graham & Jones and Brecher & Co are to merge. Michael Johns, Nicholson Graham & Jones's managing partner,

says: "We have been in talks for a year." The merger will move it into the top 40 London firms in size, with 113 lawyers. Brecher's name will disappear.

Kicking it around

LORD HAILSHAM and Edward Grayson, the president of the British Association for Sport and the Law, both feature in the first episode of *Kicking and Screaming*, a BBC documentary on football screened next week. Lord Hailsham's grandfather was an early advocate of the game. Mr Grayson, a barrister, describes how the word soccer was coined by Charles Wreldford Brown, a lawyer who played for England. "In those days lawyers weren't needed

for their legal skills but as players on the field," he says.

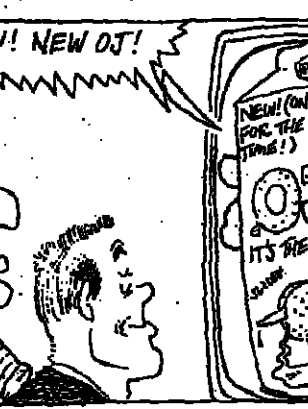
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Brush up on law

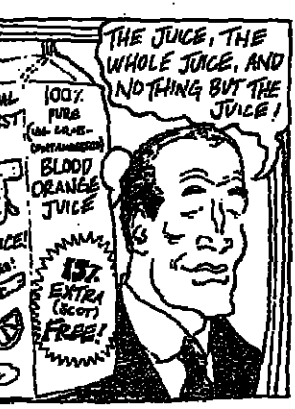
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SCRIVENOR

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



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Following our policy of expansion at both London and Leeds centres, we are pleased to announce that we have two vacancies for starting practitioners, one at each of our centres. The work of chambers is primarily in the commercial chancery field. Applications should be sent to Benjamin Levy in London or Hugo Groves in Leeds by 31st October 1995. They should be marked "Tenancy" on the envelope and the applications should clearly state whether they relate to London vacancy, to the Leeds vacancy or to both. Applicants should enclose a cv and give the names of two referees, one of which should be a pupil-master/mistress.

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Senior Clerk: Barry Clayton

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Leeds Clerk: Carol Shaw

BY BRIAN CLARKE

SHEEHAN



N on BRIDGE





BY MEL WEBB

So determined were they that nothing would come between them and a good day out that they did not even add



REGIONAL FINAL

A thought should be spared, though, for Allan Clayton. He has been non-playing captain in all three of their appearances but has yet to make the team.

By STUART JONES

When he connected again with Byars to claim his 33rd touchdown pass, he stood only six short of matching another of Tarkenton's records. "What sets him apart is his judgment," Don Shula, the Dolphins coach said. "He makes

Marino, kept on the sidelines throughout a fourth quarter dominated exclusively by the opponents, was disconsolate. "It's going to be hard to put this behind us," he said. His coach went further. Shula described the capitulation of his team as "an embarrassment".

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
Eastern division				
Dallas	5	1	0	180 109
Philadelphia	3	3	0	127 159
NY Giants	2	4	0	101 139
Washington	2	4	0	133 139
Arizona	1	5	0	90 160

Central division				
Cleveland	3	3	0 124	107
Pittsburgh	3	3	0 158	140
Cincinnati	2	4	0 186	145
Houston	2	4	0 105	119
Jacksonville	2	4	0 81	117
Western division				
Oakland	5	1	0 183	79
Kansas City	4	1	0 118	82

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: Ten of Diamonds

On this point, if they duck, their king will never score a trick. However, West recognised that he needed the king of hearts as an entry to the diamonds, and so she bid play-low.

PROSSIE
a. Swiss drinking toast
b. A tart
c. A prosecuting attorney

Answers on page 44

By RAYMOND KEENE

White: Max Euwe

ing continuation in the form of Nd^{2+} . Would he be well advised to take this route?

Solution on page 44

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Basingsloe Bison each wolf

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Results, page 44

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Wycombe v Fulham (7.45)
 Vauxhall Conference
 Bath v Woking (7.45)
 Macclesfield v Morecambe (7.45)
 Stalybridge v Gateshead (7.45)
 Spalding Challenge Cup
 First round, second leg
 Droylsden v Welling (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Chelsea (7/0), Queens Park Rangers v Bristol Rovers (all Harrow Borough, 7/0), Watford v Arsenal (2/0), West Ham v Oxford Utd (7/0), League Cup, Torquay v Bath (7/0).

UNLSTED CUP: Semi-finals: Crusaders v Ulster (all The Oval, Belfast).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE. First
division: Farnsgate v Faversham Sheppey
v Canterbury. Tintbridge Wells v Folkestone
Invicta v Whitstable v Beckenham
**SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL
LEAGUE:** Cranley T v Brentford

Results
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NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burnough v St Helens, Glossop North End v Norwich, Kudegrove v Bootle, Prescot v Catherhoe, Salford v Flinton, Blantyre v Bowdler, Chadderton v Nantwich.

OTHER SPORT
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Bradford v. Arena Essex (7.55)

IN BRIEF

Yankees sunk

Yankees sunk

Britain at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, shooting 50 metres smallbore prone rifle. The British International Clay Target Shooting Federation also named Peter Boden, of Bedworth, for Olympic tran-

and Kevin Gill, of Birmingham, and Richard Faulds, of Handover, in the double trap.

peal. However, the Pakistani has instead been barred from appearing in the semi-finals and finals, next April, of the new national cup competition. Jansher was suspended earlier this year for allegedly not arriving at a match for 115

trying while playing for Wizards, the Bristol side.

National fervour fuels drive towards European championship finals

Croatia march in ticker-tape parade

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN SPLIT

THE morning after the match, emotion spent, Croatia believed that they had done enough, in the 1-1 draw here against Italy on Sunday night, to start booking the tickets for the European championship finals on English soil next summer. I share that conviction, just as, over the past four days, I have shared what passes for life at "war" in the relatively new republic of Croatia.

The experience, the great goodwill of the people, has meant more than a rather tedious, predictable and foul-ridden contest in the resplendent Poljud Stadium.

Rarely, anywhere over a quarter of a century, has one witnessed such an outpouring of nationalistic expectation. It was summed up by an astonishing ticker-tape welcome to the teams, by the passing down from the higher echelons of a stadium a 40ft red and white flag, until Dr Franjo Tudjman, the president of the republic, himself laid hands on the national colours. There was a somewhat regrettable drowning with whistles and boos of the Italian anthem. Then, 20 white doves were released when Croatia equalised.

The football? Oh yes, that Italy, having been beaten 2-1 by Croatia in Palermo last November, came in a state of neurosis. Their media had opined that, in the last year, of Arrigo Sacchi's side — one in which he has run so many permutations so that he now has awarded 48 new caps among 82 players used in four years — has "reached the point where the ability to invent had become a mortal sin. Everybody is afraid to improvise."

Not quite everybody. Luca Bucci, the goalkeeper of Parma, did that to illegal extremes in the ninth minute when he came seven yards out of his area and, fearing that Davor Suker would score from a long pass by Mladen Mladenovic, handled the ball above his head. Rightly, he was shown the red card.

Yet is any team in the world better able to retrench into a defensive game of cat and mouse than the Italians? They took off Gianfranco Zola to bring on Francesco Toldo, of



Alessandro Del Piero, of Italy, scrambles past the challenge of Davor Suker, the Croatia defender, during the 1-1 draw in Split

Florentina, the reserve goalkeeper, and scored with a breakaway after half an hour.

Croatia's problems had been apparent throughout. They prepared in the luxurious seclusion of a villa in which Winston Churchill chose to rest after the Second World War, but there they nursed fears that injuries had come at the wrong time in their history. They lost Robert Prosinecki, their forward, whose muscles were memorably said to be of the constitution of Bohemian china. They also lost, through suspension, Robert Jarni, the dynamic and pacy left back, and Slaven Bilic, the left-sided half of the central defensive pair.

Whoever one spoke to in the Croatia camp feared this defensive loss above all and yet, on the morning of the match, Elvis Brackovic also had to pull out, and Nikola Jurcovic, his replacement, was the weakness on which Italy preyed.

He was booked after barely three minutes and he committed the foul from which Italy scored, after Di Matteo side-footed the ball to Albertini, whose shot, in turn, was force and precision combined.

Now, we were to search for the answer for the time-honoured question about players of this Balkan turmoil. If Yugoslavia, when it was whole, could always flatter to

deceive, could earn the nickname the European Brazil yet seldom win a contest because their minds or their hearts were not in it, then why should a breakaway region number less than five million produce such heart and soul and nerve? Strength of mind came rolling down from the 40,000 spectators. They sang a national song, the words of which allude to being champions, to having the spirit in their blood and to winning for the land of their grandfathers.

That is why, the Welsh spirit, with an extra generation attached — and though the reply came from the penalty spot in the 49th minute, the fact that it was Davor Suker,

scoring his fifteenth goal in 14 internationals for his "new" country, counted for everything.

A penalty is such a simple thing, except that, when the nation depends on it, when you have the absolute gall to fox the goalkeeper and everyone by striking it imperiously with the left foot, instead of the right for which you are famous, the word "soft" is as remote as the word "Yugoslav" was from everyone in earshot of Split on Sunday.

Because of this result, this apparent anti-climax to a phenomenal amount of national build-up and expectation, Croatia are virtually assured of qualifying for the finals. They

stand three points ahead of Italy, eight goals the better and, even if Italy were to score floods of goals against Latvia and Ukraine, second place with 20 or more points ought to be sufficient.

This for a country whose leading club, Hajduk Split, having reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup last season, have had to sell seven of the 11 first-choice players and to import, on trial, two Liberians and an Australian. They are making something out of so very little, the Croatians — and Italy are making the usual neurotic mess out of what, for them, had been anticipated as a romp to the European finals.

Juninho's style captures the imagination

David Miller on Bryan Robson's
audacious coup in persuading the
Brazilian to join Middlesbrough

Juninho signed from São Paulo

Bryan Robson, the manager of upwardly-mobile Middlesbrough, has adapted the maxim that if you cannot beat them, join them. Instead, persuade them to join you. The signing by Middlesbrough of Juninho, Brazil's mercurial footballer of the year, from São Paulo is the most audacious move in domestic English football since Keith Burkinshaw took Osvaldo Ardiles to Tottenham Hotspur in 1978.

As any sensible manager knows, skilful players have no difficulty playing together. They do so spontaneously. I well remember the Rest of the World XI of 1953 at Wembley, a scratch side in which the likes of Kubala and Nordahl mesmerised England with their touch game. Robson knows that a player such as Juninho can play anywhere. So why not Middlesbrough?

Robson, assistant coach to Terry Venables with the England team for the international in Norway tomorrow, has never had any doubt.

"When I went into management, I always thought I'd look at Brazilians," he said. "When people talk about the world's best players, they're always Brazilians. They're tough, mentally and physically. I've experienced this on the field. After spending the past week there negotiating Juninho's transfer from São Paulo for £4.75 million, nothing has changed my mind. In the match I saw on Wednesday night, Juninho never stopped running."

There is no reason to suppose that this marvellous little Brazilian attacking player, moulded in the tradition of Tostão and Zico, will not be an outstanding success with Middlesbrough, for so long the poor relation of the North East's trio of leading clubs.

"If you buy the top players, you can be sure they'll play well," Robson said. He believes that, alongside Nick Barmby and others, Juninho can become as influential within the English game as Ardiles, Cantona or Klinsmann.

"I've got some players with good technique," Robson said yesterday, having just returned from São Paulo, where Juninho is gathering his things together before arriving with his family at the end of this week to undergo medical checks. "I think we [in Britain] diminish our own players too quickly, saying that they can't play."

Sir Alf Ramsey, famously stated, after England returned empty-handed from their defence of the World Cup in 1970 in Mexico — undeservedly defeated in the quarter-final by West Germany in the tournament memorably won by Brazil — that England had nothing to learn from Brazilian footballers. Ramsey was duly pilloried for his

comment, though what he had meant was that there was no point in England attempting to copy Brazil's style. That is true enough, but the benefit of the arrival of Juninho, who tormented England in the Umbro Cup this summer — is that he will, like Cantona, place a welcome emphasis on touch, subtlety and refinement instead of the mindless expedient long-ball game that afflicts so many of our teams.

Barmby, whose own career should flourish in such a partnership — Robson also plans to play Juninho in a midfield position moving forward — said yesterday: "I thought he was phenomenal in the summer, and it will be great to have the opportunity to play alongside him."

Sheridan joins list of Charlton's casualties

JOHN SHERIDAN, the Ireland midfielder player, has been ruled out of their European football championship qualifying match against Latvia in Dublin tomorrow, a knee injury making him the third significant absentee from a game that Ireland must win to maintain a realistic chance of qualifying for the finals.

Roy Keane and Denis Irwin

are also out of contention, but Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, had better news of Phil Babb, the Liverpool defender, who should have recovered from a bruised toe.

There was a blow, too, for Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, whose side could profit from any slip-up by their neighbours in group six. Jim Magilton, the

Southampton midfielder player, who injured a thigh in training on Sunday, remained behind when the squad flew out for their match in Liechtenstein. Keith Rowland, the West Ham United utility player, was called in.

Graham Barrow has been dismissed as manager of Wigan Athletic, the Endsleigh Insurance League third divi-

sion club. Alex Cribble, the first-team coach, has been placed in temporary charge.

Dorset Police have referred to the Police Complaints Authority their inquiry into the incident last Tuesday in which Kevin Phillips, the Watford player, was allegedly struck by a police officer's truncheon at the end of the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Bournemouth.

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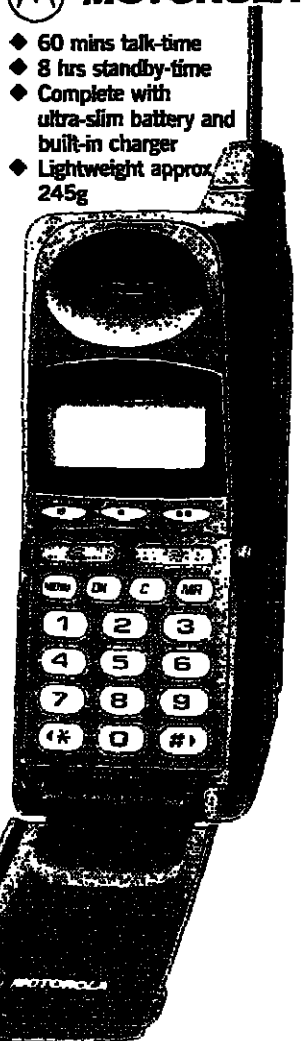
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Jones seeks unification with Benn

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

ROY JONES, the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight champion, has called on Nigel Benn, the World Boxing Council titleholder, to hold talks on a unification match. If a bout with Benn could not be made, Jones would be willing to meet Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation champion, from Ireland.

Contracts that the boxers have with the Home Box Office (HBO) and Showtime, rival American television companies, have prevented them from meeting so far, but Jones believes that they can find a way round the problem, toward a contest that could earn Benn about £2.5 million.

Jones said that he would even go to Los Angeles to talk to Benn — and box on the Showtime network — if King made a realistic offer. "I like the biggest challenge," Jones said. "A lot of people take him lightly because of his age, but I would not do that."

Although Jones is the best boxer in the world at any weight, he is clearly finding it difficult to get opponents as the leading super-middleweights are boxing under King's banner or under that of Frank Warren, his partner.

Benn, however, could still share a \$7 million purse if he were to meet Frankie Liles, the World Boxing Association champion. Liles, who had a win over Jones as an amateur, could be boxing Benn in January in London. King told Jack O'Halloran, Liles's manager. "It makes sense for Benn to have a unified title before taking on Roy Jones," O'Halloran said.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 6 New York 5
(11th inn. Seattle won best-of-five series 3-2)

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Latvia 84 England 67; Italy 76 Slovenia 63; Greece 75 Israel 73

BOWLS

BALLYMONEY, Northern Ireland: Roger Gossard (Scotland) 10-10; Peter Fenn (Ireland) 10-10; Peter Fenn (Ireland) 10-10

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Pakistan (first day of three): New Zealanders 366-5 dec (M D Crowe 101 not out, S J Fleming 72, Imran Khan 50, President's XI 389-4 dec (R Dravid 146, M Azharuddin 100) Match drawn

CYCLING

OUTBACK, Colombia: World championship: Men's professional road race (265.5 miles): 1. A. Ochoa (Col) 4:01.20; 2. M. Perdomo (Col) 4:01.20; 3. M. Perdomo (Col) 4:01.20

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 4 Saudi Arabia 3 (in Washington)

FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Blyth Spartans 1-0; Blyth Spartans 1-0

FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Blyth Spartans 1-0; Blyth Spartans 1-0

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MOTOR SPORT

SILVERSTONE, British Formula Three championship: Round 16 (14 laps): 1. W. Hughes (GB) 1:18.4; 2. J. Davies (GB) 1:18.4; 3. J. Davies (GB) 1:18.4

GYMNASTICS

SABAE, Japan: World championship: Apparatus final: Men: floor: 1. V. Shcherbo (Russia) 9.812; 2. U. Schoppa (China) 9.775; 3. J. Davies (GB) 9.762

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 1 Ireland 0 (in Philadelphia)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 3 Edmonton 1, Florida 4 Calgary 3

MOTORCYCLING

BARCELONA, World championship: European Grand Prix 500cc: 1. A. Criville (Spain) 4:21.1; 2. J. Davies (GB) 4:21.1; 3. J. Davies (GB) 4:21.1

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RUGBY UNION

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Clermont 22 Toulouse 22; Clermont 22 Toulouse 22

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Clermont 22 Toulouse 22; Clermont 22 Toulouse 22

of getting lost in a game-show format that is simply not suited to his talents.

Conestans and hyped-up studio audience have eyes and ears on the show, relies on frequent increases of "higher" and "lower" for each other, while the frantic pace leaves little time for Forsyth's gently teasing banter. And when that's not working, nothing works.

Suddenly you notice anew that **ridiculous hairpiece**, which not only appears to be growing but has turned a hopelessly optimistic shade of blond. Suddenly, the **turning** that used to work so well with the **wholesomely sexy Rosemarie Ford**, begins to look tacky and over-the-top. The **hostesses** who give the distinct impression that if you have seen them before it was probably with a staple through their navels. Mind you, if we're still playing **Desert Island Companions**...

Matthew
Bond


stier," he told Isaacs, "interested only in money and celebrities." A worrying conclusion was beginning to emerge, at least to us chaps — kiss hello to mother and you kiss goodbye to creative genius. Just imagine: symphonies, novels, paintings, all lost to the phrase "there, there, it doesn't matter".

Sondheim's craggy features were perfect for the constant gaze of the *Face to Face* cameras. But as an interviewee he proved if not

Perhaps Bruce Forsyth should try analysis, for he should certainly have said "no" to Bruce's Price is Right (ITV). For, while Bob Monkhouse recently rediscovered himself by returning to his roots as a stand-up comedian, Forsyth looks in danger

...appears to be growing out has
turned a hopelessly optimistic
shade of blond. Suddenly, the
flirting that used to work so well
with the wholesomely sexy Rose-
marie Ford, begins to look tacky
with meretricious hostesses who
give the distinct impression that if
you have seen them before it was
probably with a saple through
their navels. Mind you, if we're
still playing **Desert Island**
Companions...

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am **Hesthroff** (p) (9868774)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (52671)
9.00 **Sabotage** Women-only quiz (t) (s) (50132)
9.30 **Schools** *Europe* (6172033) 9.45 *Soap* Look at the *Soap* (616294) 10.00 *Foam Farm* (521412) 10.10 *Maths Everywhere* (2166661) 10.25 *How We Used to Live* (2089788) 10.45 *Caradean* (148510) 11.00 *The New Living Body* (5524720) 11.20 *Stage One* (3875942) 11.35 *Video Showcase* (2457836) 11.45 *First Edition* (3566229)
12.00 **Hard Men** Glaswegian bodybuilder, Brenda Collum (t) (Teletext) (s) (74768)
12.30 **Sesame Street** The guest is the singer Lena Horne (30519) 1.30 *Widdget* (t) (s) (56663)
2.00 **Book** A book that meets has match in an antiquarian book dealer (22200584)
2.15 **FILM: Appointment in London** (1953) With D. Bogarde and Dinah Sheridan. Second World War RAF drama, still as the chaps' upper lips, directed by Philip Leacock. (Teletext) (850958)
4.00 **Wild West Country** A hedonist hospital Newton Abbot. (Teletext) (s) (478)
4.30 **Pebbles to One** (Teletext) (s) (590)
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show: Will Your Marriage Last?** (Teletext) (s) (6027841)
5.50 **Murru Buchstansangur** Cartoon (903381)
6.00 **FILM: The Avengers: The Town of No Return** (b/w) (t) (Teletext) (12823)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) (654229)
7.55 **The Slot** Videos' video soapbox (983887)
8.00 **Wild Britain: The War of the Roses** Not all insects are the rose's enemies. This fourth of a six-part series looks at rose-growers' friends. (Teletext) (s) (8720)
8.30 **Brookside** Gemma and Leo take drastic action to escape Mick's paranoia. Jimmy is enraged when the residents take matters into their own hands: there is good news for the lottery syndicate, and Ron becomes both hero and villain. (Teletext) (s) (7855)

Sam West and Helena Bonham-Carter (9.00pm)
9.00 **FILM: Howards End** (1991). Oscar-winning adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel starring Emma Thompson, Anthony Hopkins and Vanessa Redgrave. Directed by James Ivory. (Teletext) (t) (9001045)
11.40 **Just For Laughs -- Unleashed**. From Montreal! Just For Laughs festival. Mark Thomas introduces Donna McPaul, Harry Hill, Bobby Slayton, Stevie Nicks and Mr Methane (t) (s) (794039)
1.05am **Man Talk** Richard Johnson and the men from last week's show are joined by five women to discuss the men's attitudes (t) (s) (3362965)
1.55 **World Tennis** Action from Valencia and hard-core action from Toulouse and Kuala Lumpur (2868508)
2.25 **The Sahara Project** Episode three of an eight-part German drama. Thomas Attenberg and Hans-Waldegge continue working with the Sahara Project although they discover that it is financed by the sale of poisonous gas, used in a North African coup. Dubbed in English (9189053). Ends at 3.25

SATELLITE

- [illegible]

FISHING 43

ANGLERS VOTE TO
FORGE CLOSER TIES
WITH FIELD SPORTS

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 1995

BADMINTON 46

NATIONAL CHAMPION
FORCED TO PAY
HIS OWN WAY

England protect walking wounded

Edwards bows out as Betts takes charge

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SHAUN EDWARDS joined Gary Connolly and Martin Offiah, his Wigan teammates, on the England rugby league team's list of sick and injured yesterday, leaving Denis Betts to assume the captaincy and Bobby Goulding the scrum half's role for the Halifax World Cup group game against Fiji tomorrow.

Edwards missed training yesterday after contracting a stomach virus on Sunday. As he is now recovering, his absence was principally a precaution against any possibility of the infection spreading to other members of the squad.

It would be a surprise were he not to take his place among the substitutes for the game at Wigan, which should see England as the first country to reach the semi-finals.

Offiah, as expected, misses the match. Recovering from a troublesome calf strain, he is still searching for the fitness and confidence that he needs to go at flat-out speed. He pulled out of the squad before the opening defeat of Australia for the same reason, but hopes to play in the final group game with South Africa on Saturday. The news on Connolly's recovery from pneumonia is far less certain.

Although a decision on whether to draft Richard Gay, the Hull full back, into the squad is being delayed a few more days, the chances of Connolly figuring in the later stages of the tournament are receding, which is a particular worry.

As well as they played to overcome the world champions last Saturday, a game decided mainly by Australian errors and English opportunism highlighted the need for more strike players than simply Jason Robinson and Paul Newlove.

However, Nick Pinkney, of Keighley Cougars, is the one alteration to the

threequarters. Barrie-Jon Mather has a calf strain, while Tony Smith forms a new half-back partnership with Goulding, as Daryl Powell picked up a few knocks on Saturday.

Betts looked ring-rusty at Wembley, after several inactive weeks, but Phil Larder, the England coach, expressed confidence in him getting up to speed and praised the "outstanding qualities of leadership he has shown in camp". Larder said that the support play of Smith at Castleford had impressed him all season and that Goulding could force

Larder said. "I have told them I will try and give them the opportunity to break into the team if we make the semis."

After New Zealand's scare in recovering from 24-12 down and beating Tonga only in injury time on Sunday, Larder is paying Fiji the utmost respect. "It nearly frightened me to death when I switched the radio on," he said. "It contained a message for every coach in the competition that you just can't afford to take anyone lightly."

The bruising impression left on South Africa on Sunday by Ilie Toga, the Fiji second-row forward, was one aspect of the explosive fashion that the islanders' play that Larder singled out as an obvious danger. For the poor South Africans, it was probably merely the softening up before the real pummeling tonight at Gateshead.

Australia's backlash from Saturday is the minnows' misfortune. The sort of thrashing they can expect — the Kangaroos' international world record 74-0 win set last year against France in Béziers should comfortably be exceeded — can only do the fledgling rugby league nation more harm than good. For ballast, South Africa have three props — Gideon Watts, Jaco van Niekerk and Jaco Booysen — in the front row.

A risk is being taken by Australia. With Paul Harragon, the prop, not with the captaincy, but the hairline fracture of the cheekbone that he suffered in a collision at Wembley with Brad Fittler, from whom he takes over. Harragon is one of seven in the 17 named who have reason to atone for their faults on Saturday, as is John Hopoate, who gets a second opportunity on the left wing.

David Westley and Bruce Marmanto, the Canberra forwards, make their debuts for Papua New Guinea at Hull tonight, a test of Tonga's powers of recovery. A second defeat would make them the first country on the flight home.



Goulding has his chance to stake a permanent place in the England team for the rest of the World Cup. Photograph: John Houlihan

Papuans keen to fulfil home expectations

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BACK in Papua New Guinea, expectations are high, exceedingly so. Adrian Lam, their captain, said: "Rugby League is the No 1 sport there and everyone thinks we will win the World Cup. Yes, there is pressure on us. We can only give it our best shot."

The evidence for this confidence is not entirely clear. The "Kumuls" (the nickname means bird of paradise), have yet to win an international match away from their homeland. In the past, the com-

plaint has been with the European cold. On a balmy evening on Humberstone to night, they will probably never have a better chance than against a Tongan side weakened by their exertions in narrowly losing to New Zealand 48 hours before.

Lam can imagine the scenes if they beat Tonga at the Boulevard, Hull's ground, and go on to a meeting with New Zealand on Friday at St Helens with the opportunity of a place in the last four. "They will go completely mad," Lam, a celebrity in the

country he left when his family moved to Brisbane when he was seven, said.

The scrum half for the Sydney City Roosters said that he would have lost face with his people if he had turned his back on them and opted to represent Australia, a real possibility as a result of the outstanding series he had for Queensland in the State of Origin matches with New South Wales last season.

There is no bigger name in a country which, since Australian expatriates imported the game after the Second World

War, has adopted it as more of a national obsession than sport, a passion hardly borne out by the country's international record, which fares better in the melting pot of home than away.

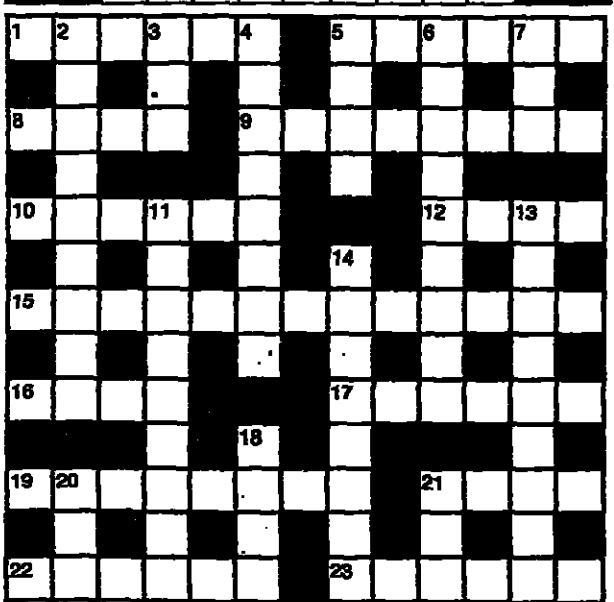
It is why Papua New Guinea's chances are regarded somewhat less highly outside. However, mixed in with the subsistence farmers from the Highlands and workers from Port Moresby, the capital, are a growing number of Australian-based Papuans.

David Westley and Bruce Marmanto, the Canberra

Raiders forwards, bring considerable knowledge to the side, while Lam is one of the finest playmakers in the Winfield Cup. On a visit to Papua New Guinea after helping Queensland to their 24 State of Origin series victory, he was mobbed by 40,000 people at the airport.

Lam feels the pressure, but no less so than those based in Papua New Guinea itself. Its people are expecting more, but even one win would trigger scenes reminiscent of that that greeted the defeat of Great Britain there in 1990.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 596

ACROSS

- 1 Mutilate: old kitchen equipment (6)
- 5 Highland outlaw, Scott hero (3,3)
- 8 Pine: extended (4)
- 9 Skew-whiff (4-3)
- 10 Take out bones (6)
- 12 Hit with foot (4)
- 15 20C novelist, née Stephen (8,5)
- 16 Run fast; skin (4)
- 17 Strauss's blue river (6)
- 19 Over against (8)
- 21 Smile: thick plank (4)
- 22 Carefree and happy (6)
- 23 Jester's wear: assorted (6)

DOWN

- 2 Australian native (9)
- 3 Joke: forcibly silence (3)
- 4 Stimulating (8)
- 5 Solid foundation: teeter unsteadily (4)
- 6 Analyse; go wrong (5,4)
- 7 Lyric poem (3)
- 11 Runs away: time for sleep (6,3)
- 13 Observe (festival) (9)
- 14 Reverie (3-5)
- 18 Splendid: penalty (4)
- 20 Buddy (3)
- 21 Little piece: used teeth (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 595

ACROSS: 8 Liberal 9 Orion 10 The Warden 11 Spa 12 Hindi 14 Die-hard 15 Changer 17 Field 19 Ram 20 On This Day 22 Arson 23 Average

DOWN: 1 Bloch 2 Able 3 Breaking point 4 Glided 5 Counterfeited 6 Dissuade 7 In hand 13 Near miss 15 Corral 16 Ritual 18 Dryden 21 Dram

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Venables poses dilemma for FA

FROM DAVID MILLER IN OSLO

THE more one hears Terry Venables discuss the structure of his England team, present and future, the more he poses a problem: would the Football Association be better advised to ask him to continue as coach through to the 1998 World Cup, or to appoint him as technical director for the years ahead?

In either role, he can help to educate and develop not only players and/or future coaches, but also the public, not to mention the media. He refuses to get pinned down by stereotypical definitions and clichés by which many managers hang themselves. For example, Paul Gascoigne, who is injured and unavailable against Norway here tomorrow, is Venables insisted yesterday, neither "unique" nor "irreplaceable".

Discussing alternative options, Venables said: "You don't try to copy him [when replacing him], because he's so different." He is unique, Venables argued, only to the extent that he offers certain

specific qualities. Other players, such as Robert Lee, the expected replacement, offer other qualities.

Venables is all too aware that no team, least of all the national side, can be over-committed or dependent on any one player, hence his scepticism about the talented but individualistic Matthew Le Tissier. Venables needs a team that will be temperamentally uninfluenced and tactically insulated against the absence of any individual.

Lee last played, and scored, in the 1-1 draw against Romania at Wembley last October, and is expected now to play in central midfield in a quartet including McManaman, Redknapp and Wise. "He's a very intelligent player, similar to David Platt, with a good touch," Venables said, "an all-round player who's done remarkably well with Newcastle United."

Instead of moaning about the absence of players besides Gascoigne and Platt, such as Barnes and Le Saux — as several previous England managers would have done — Venables is more concerned with stressing the qualities of those who will set out to reverse the last inept performance at the Ullevaal Stadium here. He is constantly calculating second and third alternative permutations.

Over the weekend, Venables had revealed that he had rejected an offer to join Internazionale, of Milan, for a purported reward of £1.5 million over three years. He appreciated, he said, the FA's faith in him — during a period of severe initial public criticism — and would remain loyal to his contract.



Venables: sceptical

Yesterday, he declined to comment on speculation that he was among an alleged shortlist of four for the post of England technical director. "I've not yet seriously thought about the possibility," he said, though it seemed clear that what he meant was the desirability, the direction in which he wants his career to move.

His contract expires after the European championship finals, and he said that he would certainly discuss with the FA, before the finals, whether he and they wished for a continuation. He did admit, significantly, that he was increasingly enjoying the job, though he missed daily coaching with a club.

The alternative FA posts could cause Venables a dilemma. Were England to perform well in the European finals, it would be tempting to continue. Yet the technical director will be named before the finals have even begun: the first time that he will come under the full impact of public scrutiny, of acclaim or rejection.

Brazilian magic, page 44
Croatia's march, page 44

Broken leg adds to Hill's problems

BY OLIVER HOLT

AT THE point when it seemed that only some form of misfortune befalling Michael Schumacher could give Damon Hill even the slightest chance of winning the Formula One motor racing world drivers' championship, the Englishman revealed that he will have to race in the final grands prix of the season suffering from a broken right leg. Hill damaged the bone below his knee when he crashed heavily at the Nürburgring in the European Grand Prix ten days ago, but he has only just realised the extent of the injury.

Hill hit the tyre barrier at the Nürburgring at more than 120mph and, even though the resulting fracture will

cause him severe discomfort in the final races, the crash in Germany had already effectively ended any chances that he had of stealing the championship away from the young German.

If Hill finds that the pain is such that he cannot race, then his Williams team will be faced with an awkward dilemma. Jean-Christophe Boullion, their regular test driver, has been hired out to the Sauber team, so Williams might be forced to resort to the expedient measure of drafting in Jacques Villeneuve, who they have signed to partner Hill next year. That would allow Villeneuve to learn two more tracks, but would also crush Hill's hopes of being runner-up to Schumacher.

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Russians fall victim to cold war in Norway's icy outer limits

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN SPITSBERGEN

The shrinking world market for coal may soon give Norway what it has never had since it gained sovereignty over this desolate and beautiful archipelago: sole possession of the world's most northerly inhabited land.

For more than 80 years Norwegians have scratched a harsh living from these icy mountains, mining coal side by side with Russians. Hard times have hit the industry. Spitsbergen coal, once so vital in the First World War, has no market in Norway and dwindling outlets elsewhere.

The Norwegians, oil-rich and enterprising, are rapidly diversifying this lopsided economy. However, the Russians have no money to maintain their presence. All subsidies from Moscow will stop in 1997, and the Russians are leaving in their hundreds.

Norway gained sovereignty

over the Svalbard group of islands in 1920 as a reward from the victorious Allies for neutrality during the First World War. However, the Spitsbergen treaty limits Oslo's jurisdiction, and gives any of the 42 signatories the right to exploit the frozen resources. The Russians came in 1932 and, since then, the Norwegians have been fighting a cold war on two fronts against the climate and against any Communist threat to exploit this toehold on NATO's periphery.

The Soviet population, mostly Ukrainians, who numbered some 2,200 five years ago, isolated themselves in two self-contained settlements. They allowed almost no contact with the 1,200 Norwegians clustered in the three other habitations on Spitsbergen, the main island. They even ran on Moscow time, two hours ahead of official Norwegian time. In 1991, as communism crumbled, the Russians symbolically turned back their clocks 60 years, reverting to local time.

With no roads and snowmobile transport possible only after November when enough snow covers the sharp rocks, the two communities still see little of each other. However, there are occasional sports matches, the Svalbard Governor has a Russian inter-



Ice floes off Spitsbergen, the main island in Norway's Svalbard archipelago, the most northerly inhabited spot in the world

preter and the Russian consul-general is assiduous in acknowledging sovereignty.

The climatic cold war goes on, however, and here the Norwegians are making spectacular gains. Longyearbyen, the quaint capital named after John Longyear, an American entrepreneur who sold his mine to a Norwegian com-

pany, is brightly painted, tax-free and bustling. Only 900 miles from the North Pole, it has a university institute for 150 students, a school, hospital, television relay station, coal-fired heating and electricity, shops, and a museum of coal and whaling history. A comfortable hotel opened last March to cope with the

increasing tourist trade. There are also pubs, a church and a disco that boasts the hottest bands in the Arctic.

There are regular flights between Longyearbyen and the mainland every weekday. The air link, vital when the frozen winter sea keeps out ships, brings daily supplies.

Since the end of the "Soviet

threat", physical danger on Svalbard is posed by the 3,000 polar bears, whose numbers have increased dramatically since gaining legal protection 20 years ago. The bears, some of which weigh almost a ton, increasingly venture beyond the iceflows on the colder eastern shore and prow around town. Two people

have been killed by bears so far this year.

Norway supports Svalbard with £43 million a year in grants and coal price subsidies. The reason is still overwhelmingly strategic. The waters around the archipelago are rich in fish, and Norway last summer fought a fierce fish war with Iceland.

Norway's over-riding political aim is to keep a viable and diverse community alive. There is caution about development, however, and an oil boom would cause huge disruption to the fragile ecology. So far, 17 test bores have been drilled, but none have been commercially viable, for which most islanders are secretly relieved.

The treaty terms lead to quirks of daily life. Asylum seekers are free to come to Svalbard even if rejected in Norway, and a Thai woman earns a living as a cleaner while a Turk drives a taxi. But the Governor has the right to send away anyone without a job. Pensioners are obliged to return to the mainland. There is no VAT, alcohol is cheap but strictly licensed, and Svalbard has no parliamentary representation.

Ann-Kristin Olsen, the first woman Governor, is sanguine about Svalbard's Norwegian future. The 20-strong Polish research station is the south of Spitsbergen and other international scientific outposts are assured of survival, but she is pessimistic about the outlook for the Russians and Ukrainians. "I would regret it if they left. It adds a dimension to life on Svalbard having so many nationalities here." Even without the Russian dimension, however, life in the world's most northerly town is rarely dull.

Azerbaijan's oil sales unblocked by pipeline deal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A BRITISH-LED consortium yesterday announced long-awaited plans to begin exporting crude oil from Azerbaijan through two pipelines in an attempt to appease competing interests in the volatile Caucasus region.

The Azerbaijan International Operating Company, which is led by British Petroleum, confirmed that it had decided to opt for a compromise scheme, which entails using two pipelines through Russia and Georgia.

"The first step in a giant project has now been taken," Terry Adams, the consortium's president, said. "The global oil industry is seeing the door open for many new investment opportunities in Azerbaijan."

The result is that Azerbaijan's initial oil exports will be divided equally between the two pipelines, one running north through Russia via Chechnya and Novorossiysk, on the Black Sea, and the other running west through Georgia and on to Turkey.

The decision was made not for commercial reasons, but as a diplomatic compromise to appease the two competing regional powers without whom Azerbaijan might never have exported any of its huge oil reserves.

The oil-rich state has the potential to become another Kuwait but has been prevented from selling its oil by the politics of a region which has been affected by ethnic con-

flicts and political intrigue since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The oil reserves in the Caspian Sea are worth an estimated \$4 billion and the drilling operation will last for 30 years. By the turn of the century, the consortium expects to be recovering 700,000 barrels of oil a day.

Yesterday's decision was concluded after months of lobbying. An initial proposal to export the oil south through Iran was rejected by the American members of the consortium. That left the two alternate routes through Georgia and Russia. While Ankara and Washington objected to a Russian monopoly of the route, Moscow made it clear that it would not tolerate Azerbaijani crude leaving solely through Turkey.

Yesterday Natik Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan's state oil company, said that the details for the completion of the new pipelines would be finalised with Moscow and Tbilisi within weeks. However, this failed to reflect continued unease over the highly unstable political situation in the Caucasus which could undermine any long-term projects.

Azerbaijan is still engaged in a conflict with Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, while the Azerbaijani leadership is subject to continuing unrest, which led to bloody street fighting in the capital, Baku, earlier this year.



Moscow pulls out of Chechen peace pact

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE peace settlement in Chechnya was unravelling yesterday after the Russians said that they would stop honouring the military agreement signed by the two warring parties in July.

The separatist government of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, which still controls the southern mountains of Chechnya, accused the Russians of bombing their headquarters at the village of Roshni-Chu on Sunday evening. The Chechens said 28 villagers had been killed and 60 wounded in the attack, which they called "an act of terrorism against a peaceful population".

The situation in Chechnya has deteriorated rapidly since Friday's bomb attack on Anatoli Romanov, the commander-in-chief of Russian forces in Grozny, the Chechen capital. Three soldiers were killed and General Romanov was seriously injured. The general was a keen supporter of the peace process and had struck up a good working relationship with his Chechen negotiating partners.

The Moscow authorities have been searching for a response and President Yeltsin has spent the last two days debating whether to impose a state of emergency in Chechnya that would grant the army special powers.

The July 30 agreement set up a truce in Chechnya and required Chechen villagers to hand in their weapons in return for the Russians pulling back most of their troops. By pulling out of the accord, the Russians are now able to resume an offensive against the rebels.

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THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

Nato planes bomb Serb bunker as conflict goes on

By STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO AND
MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO planes attacked a Bosnian Serb command bunker near Tuzla with laser-guided bombs yesterday after Serb forces launched a series of assaults on government targets, killing one United Nations peacekeeper.

Armies on both sides of the Bosnian conflict continued to attack each other as they waited for instructions to observe the midnight ceasefire or to continue fighting. However, the military reality on the ground had less influence on the fate of the planned ceasefire than did the question of whether the inhabitants of Sarajevo would be able to switch on their lights and heat their flats with gas.

As Bosnian Serb forces continued to shell government territory around Tuzla, NATO planes flew overhead in search of the Bosnian Serb heavy weapons. However, they failed to locate the guns and one Norwegian peacekeeper was killed by the Serb attacks.

Government forces were reportedly firing out of the Tuzla area and continuing to advance in Doboj in northern Bosnia and Mrkanje Grad in western Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs launched a counter-

delegation was hoping to have an answer by yesterday evening.

"We're all just sitting here waiting for a call from Russia," said Tony James of Britain's Overseas Development Administration, which has been working to repair old and damaged gas lines and connections in Sarajevo. "A man in Budapest is just waiting for instructions to press a button that opens a valve. Once he does that, gas can flow into the city."

As the negotiations proceeded, repair teams from both sides of the conflict worked throughout the day to repair damaged electricity supplies to the Bosnian capital. The line runs from government-controlled Kiseljak, through a Serb-controlled pocket west of Sarajevo. On Sunday, the armies, including the Bosnian-Croat, removed mines from around the cable.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia had said that Serb attacks on a refugee centre near Tuzla on Sunday, in which several children were killed, would not affect the ceasefire set for today. However, a hint of the Bosnian Government's plan to postpone the truce came when a Foreign Ministry adviser said he doubted the ceasefire would be implemented for at least a couple of days.

Meanwhile, an international warrant for the arrest of Dragan Nikolic, a Bosnian Serb prison camp commander accused of murder and torture, is expected to be issued by judges at the war crimes tribunal in The Hague. A hearing into the charges against the former commander of a camp at Susica, in northeast Bosnia, where about 8,000 Muslim prisoners were held, began yesterday.

Witnesses to his alleged crimes, which included killing eight Muslim prisoners, torturing ten others and deporting more than 500 civilians between April and September 1992, will appear before the tribunal for the first time.

In an opening address yesterday, Richard Goldstone, chief prosecutor for the tribunal, said he would ask ten witnesses to testify against Mr Nikolic. He was the first person indicted by the UN tribunal but he has remained free since being charged in November last year.



Relatives of some of those who died trying to get into the Madrid court where seven former government officials went on trial yesterday

Toxic oil victims pin hopes for payout on trial

FROM EDWARD OWEN
IN MADRID

THOUSANDS of victims of one of the world's worst mass poisonings have their last chance to win compensation with the trial of seven former government officials which opened in Madrid yesterday.

Fourteen years ago, the officials were responsible for departments that should have stopped adulterated rape seed oil intended for industrial use being sold as cheap cooking oil.

As a result of using the toxic oil, more than 25,000 Spaniards, mainly

from poor city suburbs, suffered a debilitating illness: about 1,200 have died, 4,000 are crippled and 20,000 are still unwell, although the Government spent £2.25 million between 1986 and 1994 searching for a cure.

Any official convicted faces up to eight years in jail and fines of £76,000 for each death and up to £456,000 for each person crippled. The door would be opened for victims to obtain compensation from the Socialist Government for criminal negligence by the previous Union of the Democratic Centre administration.

The High Court judge who originally

charged the officials said the state would be liable for damages if the individual defendants could not pay. Ten people convicted of refining and selling the oil did not have sufficient assets to meet the £2,500 million compensation bill demanded by lawyers representing the victims.

"I have spent 15 years suffering this illness. No one has helped us and we have to fight for something," said one of about a thousand victims, many as thin as concentration camp prisoners, who demonstrated outside the national court at the start of the trial. "What we want is justice," said

another. They are furious at what they consider the inhumane attitude of Angeles Aranda, the Minister of Health, who has dismissed compensation claims by remarking: "Health care to the sick [toxic oil victims] causes no problem." Arcadio Fernandez-Molina, president of the National Association of Toxic Syndrome Sufferers, replied: "The sick are not satisfied by the health, work or social care they are receiving."

The oil, sold by men who realised there was less tax on industrial oil, suffered a chemical reaction when refined to remove a tell-tale dye.

Fruit-fly gene trio share Nobel prize

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO Americans and a German were yesterday awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for the study of genes that control the early development of an embryo.

The winners, who share \$1 million (£650,000), are Edward Lewis of the California Institute of Technology, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard of the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen, Germany, and Eric Wieschaus of Princeton University in New Jersey.

These three biologists identified and classified the small number of genes that determine the body plan in the fruit fly. The same sets of genes, which are called homeobox genes, are found in many other species, including humans, and defects are responsible for many congenital

malformations and for early spontaneous miscarriage.

Dr Lewis, 77, was first into the field in the 1940s, working "far ahead of his time", the citation from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm said. Dr Nüsslein-Volhard, 52, and Dr Wieschaus, 48, began a collaboration early in their careers. Dr Wieschaus said he had been asleep when the telephone rang: "This man spoke to me in a Swedish accent. I thought he probably had the wrong number. Maybe he did but they're not going to take it back."

Embryologists seldom win Nobel prizes: their subject is complex and intractable. The work of the three winners, and others, has shown that the rules that govern development in the womb are also apparently universal.

Sabotage blamed as 100 are hurt in Arizona rail plunge

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

POLICE blamed sabotage yesterday after a passenger train plunged into a ravine in the Arizona desert, killing a crew member and injuring at least 100 passengers, 30 critically.

Local authorities called in the FBI after an electrical cord was found wrapped around the tracks, and notes were discovered nearby. Some reports said they were addressed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the federal law enforcement agency blamed by America's right-wing militia movement for the deadly 1993 raid on the Waco compound of the Branch Davidian cult led by David Koresh.

"We have evidence it was not an accident - it could be terrorist activity," said Joe Arpaio, the county sheriff.



Koresh: leader of cult in deadly Waco siege

Two men were taken into custody about three miles from the crash site, but later released. The accident happened as Amtrak's Miami to Los Angeles train was crossing a remote bridge about 60 miles southwest of

Phoenix. The two locomotives and all 12 coaches, carrying 267 passengers and crew, left the track. The train's diner and two sleeping cars tumbled over the edge.

"We were awakened... by a violent shaking," said one woman passenger who was travelling with a friend. "The car was beginning to twist and turn and we both just hung on and knew we just had to ride it out. Then it began to slowly tilt as it was moving and shaking, and suddenly - boom."

The accident site was inaccessible by road, and rescuers had to use a fleet of helicopters to bring out the injured. "We have every kind of life-threatening injury you can imagine," said a spokesman for the local sheriff's department. The train's engineer raised the possibility that there had been some kind of tampering with the tracks.

Karachi gunmen in rocket attack

Karachi: Gunmen blasted the seven-storey provincial government building, which houses ministers and senior officials, in Karachi yesterday with several rocket attacks, wounding at least seven people (Zahid Hussain writes).

Police said seven rockets hit the sixth and seventh floors of the highly protected building, devastating the Cabinet room and the offices of the two estate ministers. Neither of the ministers was in the building, which caught fire. The Government blamed the opposition Mohajir Qumi Movement, but it denied being behind the attack.

Graf gives way in tax battle

Bonn: Steffi Graf declared she would allow a public discussion of her private tax affairs (Roger Boyes writes). The announcement, by her lawyer Peter Danckert, came amid rumours suggesting the tennis player would soon be arrested on tax evasion charges. Her father, Peter, and her accountant are on remand. A spokesman for Opel, the car company which sponsors her, said: "The way things stand today, I could not imagine that there will be a new contract at the end of the year."

30 Mexicans die in earthquake

Mexico City: An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale killed at least 30 people in the western state of Jalisco, radio reports said. Radio Red quoted government rescue services as saying 30 people were killed along the coast with the towns of Chiriquian, San Patricio and Melaque being the worst hit. Experts said the quake had its epicentre along the coastline, 330 miles west of Mexico City. (Reuters)

'Torture jail' visit

Jerusalem: The Red Cross was allowed its first visit to Khiam jail in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon since it was opened by Israel's Lebanese militia allies ten years ago. There have been claims of torture of its 200 inmates, all held without trial.

Stuck in the past

Pretoria: South Africa's Post Office, under fire for snail's pace mail delivery, marked World Post Day with a stamp depicting a runner with a cleft stick, who some say would improve the service. (Reuters)



offensive near Bosanska Krupa, 50 miles west of their stronghold, Banja Luka.

Meanwhile, a Bosnian government delegation flew to Moscow in a last-minute effort to convince the Russian gas company, which serves Sarajevo, to turn on supplies in spite of the Government's \$64 million debt.

On October 2, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, agreed to ask the UN Sanctions Committee to restore gas supplies. However, the Russian gas company demanded assurances from the Bosnian Government that it would pay the outstanding bill. The Bosnian

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Setback for Democrats as Senator decides to go

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Democratic party suffered a devastating blow yesterday when Georgia's Sam Nunn, ignoring appeals from his fellow Senators and President Clinton, announced his retirement next year.

His departure will deprive the Democrats of one of their few remaining congressional heavyweights, make it all but impossible for his party to recapture the Senate next year, and accelerate its dramatic collapse in its former stronghold of the South.

The senator, who is 57 and one of the last old-style Southern conservative Democrats, offered no particular reason for his decision. But he lost his eight-year chairmanship of the powerful Senate armed services committee when the Republicans seized Congress last November, and is said to have grown increasingly frustrated by Capitol Hill's acrimonious new partisanship. During 23 years in Washington, he has established himself as the Senate's foremost authority on defence and played a pivotal role in many key decisions ranging from the Senate's rejection of both John Tower, President Bush's nominee for Defence Secretary, and President Clinton's early plan to allow homosexuals in the military, to giving Russia financial aid to dismantle its nuclear arsenal. Even Republicans on the

armed services committee had urged him to stay, fearing his departure would diminish the committee's stature.

Mr Nunn, becomes the eighth of the 15 Democratic senators - facing re-election next year to stand down and his seat, like the other seven, is now vulnerable to a Republican challenge. The Republicans have a 53-46 advantage in the Senate with one vacancy. The question is no longer whether the Democrats can recapture the Senate in 1996, but whether they can prevent the Republicans achieving the 60 seats they need to deprive Senate Democrats of their last real weapon - the filibuster.

Democrats also regarded Mr Nunn as one of the bulwarks preventing their party being completely swept away in the South, a region it has dominated since the Civil War and the cornerstone of its post-presidential victories. The Republicans, aided by Mr Clinton's deep unpopularity, have been making spectacular inroads there in recent years and for the first time since the Civil War hold a majority of the region's Congressional seats. Senate seats and State governorships.

Though Mr Clinton and Mr Nunn have had their differences, the President telephoned the senator to urge him to stay, on. The White House is concerned that a hotly-contested Senate race will boost the Republican turnout in Georgia next year and rob the President of a big State he won narrowly in 1992. Black rally: Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam movement, has invited O.J. Simpson and a member of his legal team, Johnnie Cochran, to take part in a black rally set to fuel racial tensions still further in America (Tom Rhodes writes). The Million Man March, described by Mr Farrakhan as a day of prayer, protest and atonement for black men, takes place in Washington next Monday.



Sam Nunn: an old-style Southern heavyweight



Muslim Filipina girls outside the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Manila demand the release of the condemned Sarah Balabagan

Filipina maid appeals for death row reprieve

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE appeal by a 16-year-old Filipina maid against a death sentence imposed last month for the murder of her 70-year-old Arab employer was opened yesterday then adjourned for three weeks.

Sarah Balabagan, who claims she stabbed her employer in self-defence during a rape attack, is seen by many as a symbol of the ill-treatment meted out to female servants in the Arab world. Before the hearing opened, the family of the dead man, Almas

Muhammad al-Baloushi, rejected efforts by the United Arab Emirates Government to offer "blood money" to avert the maid's execution. The man's son, Faraj, insisted: "There is no going back... no sign of any change in the family position."

The family's refusal has placed the President of the Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, in an awkward position. Under strict Islamic law, he can declare clemency, but the victim's family has the right to insist on the death penalty.

The death sentence has provoked outrage in the Philippines where ill-

treatment of servants abroad has become an explosive issue. President Ramos sent two experts in Islamic law to assist the Balabagan family with the appeal. Yesterday the parents and four-year-old sister of the maid were in court to plead for clemency. They carried an affidavit showing that Miss Balabagan was 16, and not 27 as previously claimed by Emirates officials. This, they said, showed the condemned teenager was a minor.

Arab legal sources claimed that lawyers yesterday persuaded the court of the need for more testimony to be heard, including that of another

Filipina who allegedly heard Miss Balabagan complain before the killing that she had been sexually harassed by her employer.

In Paris, President Chirac said France was following the case "very closely" and was ready to intervene if necessary. A Save Sarah petition in France has collected 100,000 signatures.

Despite the international repercussions, Western diplomats report that public opinion in the Emirates appears to favour the death sentence. The court ruled that the hearing will resume on October 30.

De Niro on assault charge

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ROBERT DENIRO, the actor whose roles have included a prize fighter and Al Capone, has been charged with assault outside a New York bar. He allegedly punched a photographer on the nose.

The incident is said to have occurred at 1.30am on Saturday when Mr De Niro left the Battery bar, a club in Manhattan. The actor was reportedly approached by Joseph

Ligier, one of the new breed of "video paparazzi" who linger outside fashionable bars in the hope of filming well-known faces.

Mr Ligier claimed that he was hit on the nose, seized by the hair and thrust over a car bonnet. Mr De Niro allegedly demanded the videotape. "No way," said Mr Ligier. The tape is now being held by police for possible use in court.

A spokesman for Mr De Niro criticised "rat crew" photographers who engaged in "ambush journalism". Mr De Niro has not been blessed with much luck recently. It seems a long time since he was acclaimed for his starring roles in such films as *Raging Bull*, in which he played Jake La Motta, the boxer, and *The Untouchables*, in which he portrayed Al Capone.

Maples aide charged with sending nude fax

New York: Nude photographs of Maria Maples, wife of the American property developer Donald Trump, have been sent by fax to various business addresses in New York. A former assistant of Miss Maples has been charged with aggravated harassment (Quentin Letts writes).

Office workers at the Plaza Hotel, once owned by Mr Trump, and at several fashion

houses watched with bemusement as the image of a naked Miss Maples slowly emerged from their fax machines.

Chuck Jones, a former press aide of Miss Maples, has been charged with sending the faxes. Last year he was convicted of taking items from her wardrobe and admitted having a "physical, psychological, sexual relationship" with her shoes.

Media in OJ hunt besiege resort

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

REPORTERS and paparazzi descended on the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, only to hear O.J. Simpson's representatives deny that he was expected there.

The island's exclusive Casa de Campo resort became the scene of an international press stake-out within hours of a local newspaper reporting that the former America football star and his girlfriend were due to fly in, possibly for a wedding.

According to the *Listin Diario*, Mr Simpson and a party of four were scheduled to arrive at La Romana international airport, half of which is sealed off for the private use of such visitors as Robert Redford and the King of Spain, on Sunday afternoon. An anonymous source at the Casa de Campo confirmed that there were bookings there in Mr Simpson's name.

However, by Sunday night neither the man who was acquired in Los Angeles last week of double murder, nor his girlfriend, Paula Barbieri, had arrived. Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's lawyer, said there was no truth to the reports of a hastily arranged island holiday, though he did not rule out the possibility of marriage.

Mr Cochran, who will represent Mr Simpson in three civil wrongful death cases being brought against him over the murders of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, was vague as to his client's whereabouts.

Los Angeles police, whose sloppy investigation of the murders became a plank of Mr Simpson's defence, believed in the weeks after the crimes that he received help cleaning up after the murders. The revelation comes in this week's *Time* magazine, which claims detectives followed Mr Simpson's oldest son, Jason, and his friend, Al Cowlings, after the murders, in case they went to the crime scene. The theory that Mr Simpson was not alone there were not part of the prosecution's case for lack of evidence.

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The right to choose wrong

Kate Muir defends an apparent change of heart by Naomi Wolf on abortion

The aftermaths are still rolling in from Naomi Wolf's kick at the very belly of feminism, an article published this week in America's *New Republic* magazine which declares that abortion is a moral iniquity and that the pro-choice movement is at risk of becoming "callous, selfish and casually destructive".

From a woman with two right-on, pro-choice tomes in her oeuvre — *The Beauty Myth* and *Fire With Fire* — this sudden appearance of sympathy for the "pro-life" movement is curious, except for one fact: Wolf became pregnant last summer and gave birth to her daughter Rosa six months ago. Practice caused her to rethink theory.

Her article, "Our bodies, our souls" (parodying the feminist book *Our Bodies, Ourselves*), has caused much clashing of handbags throughout the sisterhood, and much delight for those who like nothing better than hearing the politically correct shout, *mea culpa*. The *Daily Mail* gloated: "How pregnancy turned a feminist against the sisters", and noted that the women's movement had been "rocked by a major defection from the pro-choice lobby". The *Sunday Times* bellowed: "Abortion heretic outrages feminists", and called the article a "scathing attack on the feminist orthodoxy of unfettered access to abortion".

But the facts, and Wolf's argument, are a great deal more complicated than that. Wolf remains pro-choice in the legal and practical senses — of that there is no doubt. But she objects to the rhetoric used by the pro-choice movement describing the foetus as "tissue" or "just a bunch of cells", and abortion as little more than late contraception. That a "termination" should be couched as merely a medical decision and not an ethical or even religious one strikes her as wrong. "It was when I was four months pregnant, sick as a dog, and in the middle of an argument, that I realised I could no longer tolerate the foetus-is-nothing paradigm,"

writes Wolf. "The 'pro-life' slogan 'Abortion stops a beating heart' is incontrovertibly true."

Wolf has not joined the enemy camp. What she has done is realise that abortion is an awful, disturbing, scarring decision for a woman, and that there are repercussions for the conscience. Above all, it is a grey area, and only the most evangelistic feminists and "pro-lifers" see it in black and white.

Wolf and I were pregnant with our first children in America at the same time. We regularly rang one another to discuss both the unpleasant and delightful details of our condition: the first thumbsucking ultrasound picture; the finest dinner lost to morning sickness; the difficulties of finding a midwife in a country which holds them in low regard. We even compared belly size and food obsessions.

For two 31-year-old women who had normally been concerned with what was going on in their heads rather than their bodies, this was disturbing. We had trouble concentrating on our previously much-prized work. Something which could fit in an eggcup was already disrupting our lives and would surely wreak greater havoc. For once, the physical came to dominate the intellectual, something neither of us had anticipated. Emotions did not replace cold opinions, but they tempered them.

Probably Wolf felt the strangeness of making another life more than most, sitting contemplating at her desk all day. Like many feminist writers, she is also in the habit of extrapolating her own experiences into theories and then books. No incident goes unplumbed, and pregnancy and birth gave her a great deal to think about.

She has never had an abortion, although she did take the morning-after pill once before she was married, an act she now has regrets about. "I chose myself, on my own terms, over a possible someone else, for self-absorbed reasons."

Thus her change of position is



Naomi Wolf recognised that the slogan "Abortion stops a beating heart" was incontrovertibly true

not surprising, and perhaps to be applauded, for at least she is not leaving feminism in a rut. Indeed, her first book, *The Beauty Myth*, on the straitjacket of physical appearance, strictly followed the traditional feminist tenets. But her next effort, *Fire with Fire*, acknowledged that women had to work alongside men for change, and that the patriarchy was not always the enemy. Thus, her "reversal" on abortion is more a development of thought.

In Britain it is hard for us to understand the intensity of public emotion surrounding abortion in America. There, each politician

must have a position on abortion, and the procedure itself is fraught with danger, with attacks, bombings and doctors killed at abortion clinics. Because the "pro-life" movement is so fanatical, its opponents are forced to equal extremes, to "cultivate a hardness of heart".

The pro-choice movement, backed up against the wall, cannot afford to talk about women mourning their lost children. There is no room, says Wolf, for Americans who want to support abortion as a legal right but still need to condemn it as a moral iniquity.

She concludes: "Abortion should

be legal; it is sometimes even necessary. Sometimes the mother must be able to decide that the foetus, in its full humanity, must die. But it is never right or necessary to minimise that value of the lives involved or the sacrifice incurred in letting them go."

Wolf, for the first time, evokes the language of religion, and depicts abortion as a sin which must be redeemed. She points out that in Japan, memorial services are often held for the souls of aborted foetuses. Shinto doctrine holds that women should make offerings to help the foetus to rest in peace.

Hurley and the fashion for Rome

Catholic taste in beauty

SOMEHOW the Catholic conversions of Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer did not have quite the thrilling appeal of the prospect of the Princess of Wales or, as mooted this week in *Harpers & Queen*, Elizabeth Hurley contemplating the road to Rome.

This is not just because we expect the plain to be pious, though there is a deal of that, but because we — or so the reactions to the non-announcement would seem to indicate — still very much take a puritanical view of such matters: that is we expect, rather, the pious to be plain. There is a difference.

I should confess here that none of this, really, is quite my bag. Being neither in a worldly nor spiritual sense starstruck, I have no particular interest in the religious leanings of those who were put on earth to have their life made hell by the paparazzi.

For the record, I am a passionate atheist, whose natural instinct to scorn sentimental religiosity is often tempered, weedyly maybe, by a desire not to be impolite.

But the link between fashion and faith is a fascinating one. It is certainly a veritable one, and one that seems to be profoundly misunderstood in the puritanical pronouncements about Hurley's putative conversion. The feeling seems to be that there is some intrinsic disparity between the life of the model and the Catholic convert. Thus it is announced that Hurley is, as it were, hanging up her Versace frocks and so on. In one article it is remarked that for the interview in which she confesses her plan to convert, she is wearing patent leather boots costing £385.

But Roman Catholicism has never been known for its sartorial austerity. And actually, with the amount of cloth of gold Gianni Versace uses, I'd have thought his clothes were eminently suitable for those of a Popish persuasion.

Indeed, for many, it is the very emphasis on display and ritual that makes Catholicism attractive. The fashion world and its satellites are full of those who

particularly savour the conjunction of sexually charged guilt and dressing up, which fuses into a sort of grandiose mystical aestheticism.

Madonna is a case in point. I don't say she has made Catholicism fashionable exactly, but she has, in her videos and pronouncements, made of it something resonant and thrilling. Certainly it was she who made it trendy for young girls to hang crucifixes on themselves as if there were no tomorrow. If she made Catholicism sexy it is because she feels it is sexy. And maybe there is something in that: in a permissive age where all is allowed, one can see the frisson in admitting back into the bedroom the idea of sin.

I do not know exactly why the good looks of the Princess of Wales and Elizabeth Hurley are seen to detract so significantly from the genuineness of their religious impulses. It seems to me that beautiful women are if anything particularly drawn to religion.

Marilyn Monroe famously converted to Judaism, the Princess of Wales as, famously, yearning to be converted to Rome. Perhaps there is a connection. In Carrie Fisher's first novel, *Postcards From the Edge*, the narrator and Fisher-figure claims to feel that she "has been punished by rewards". Maybe there is some sense in which the very beautiful wish to atone for their worldly blessings at the same time as wishing to prove that it is not these that matter.

Goddesses on earth perhaps feel the need particularly intensely to express that side of themselves that is unworthy, unbecoming. Used to being venerated, they no doubt grow to despise the veneration: one can see the brisk, soul-loathing delight in the prospect of being worshipped not worshipped.

William R. Inge wrote that "many people believe they are attracted by God or by Nature when they are only repelled by man". Perhaps the members of the selfish times with their long lenses and cruel pens have more to answer for than they thought.



NIGELLA LAWSON

Is Camelot an astonishing success story or simply an exercise in ripping off the gullible? Rachel Kelly on 12 months of lottery fever

A year ago, Camelot was King Arthur's seat and Anthea Turner an unknown former *Blue Peter* girl. The National Lottery was but a glint in the nation's eye.

Now we have become a nation of lottery players. It is the year-round equivalent of the office sweepstake on the *Grand National*. The *Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* have their lottery correspondents. More than 30 million of us spend a total of £100 million a week on tickets and "instants" scratchcards.

The draw, which is shown live on BBC1 on Saturday nights, is watched by an average of 14 million viewers. Anthea Turner has become a household name who can negotiate £600,000 pay packages with GMTV. The lottery is, in the words of Camelot's chairman, Sir George Russell:

"The most remarkable start-up I've ever been involved with."

A nation has changed in the process. Financial analysts report that ticket buying has had a perceptible impact on spending and saving. The cinema industry blames the lottery for a 20 per cent fall at the box office. But corner shops with a lottery agency have seen turnover boosted by 25 per cent and profits raised by an average of £10,000, says Camelot.

Pools firms have seen their sales slump. Small charities are losing millions in public donations, says Stuart Etherington, the chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Mean-

while, the five good causes to which 28p in every lottery pound is granted — sport, charities, arts, national heritage and the Millennium Fund — are gaining.

The lottery launched a moral debate. Is it a Treasury rip-off and a testament to despair? Is it subverting our national character? Or is it just harmless fun, celebrating good fortune rather than greed? In January, the bishops told their flock that the lottery was a form of "national-sponsored gambling designed to encourage false hopes and over-indulgence". Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has given warning of the dangers of lottery frenzy.



Russell: no bonanza

Such warnings have lessened over the months. Most people apparently love the lottery and the debate has all but dried up. One year on, what remains is concern about the detail rather than the

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- Millionaires: 98
- £1 billion raised for good causes

principle. Should Camelot make profits? Or should the lottery operator be non-profitmaking? Camelot's profits in the first six months of the lottery were £6.3 million net, some 0.5 per cent of sales. Sir

George says he expects profits to be about 1 per cent of turnover after tax. Assuming a turnover of £3.8 billion a year, that would be about £38 million of profit. Sir George says this is not an obscene figure, as his critics have argued, and is small beer compared with the profits of the privatised utilities with which Camelot has been compared.

But his main defence of profits from what is essentially a monopoly business is that a company motivated by profit in a capitalist society is likely to deliver a better, more efficient service than a company in which profits are concealed as "costs". He earns £50,000 a year, with £25,000 a year pen-

sion contributions for a one-day week as chairman of Camelot. And no, he has never bought a lottery ticket. The rules don't allow it.

Other critics have copped at the delays in handing out lottery money to the five good causes which are meant to benefit. They are right. They say more money should be spent on medical charities and less on buildings, right, too.

Too many large lottery subsidies have gone to rich people's fancies: more than £50 million was given to the Royal Opera House; £125 million to the Churchill family; and £3 million to Eton College for a sports track.

Much criticism has been

directed at Camelot. "But it's absolutely nothing to do with us," says Sir George. "We wish the money would be distributed more quickly. We feel somewhat saddened that people think it is Camelot's fault. We're not sitting on this great pot of money. That's up to the Government, and there are always delays when the Government distributes money. In part, it is because we are all victims of the lottery's success. Nobody could have foreseen that this amount of money would be generated this quickly."

Nobody denies meeting problems. But nobody can deny the lottery's success either. Perhaps this is because we banned a lottery for 170 years and there is a staggering amount of pent-up demand. No wonder we all know who Anthea Turner is now.

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Fewer women graduates go into hospital with menstrual disorders than those without any qualification, Dr Thomas Stuttford says

When a woman's education counts

The assumption that a D&C (dilatation and curettage), or a hysterectomy, is as much part of middle-class Home Counties life as a BMW on the drive and a gin and tonic before dinner has been severely denied by a Medical Research Council report, published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The research, by workers at University College London, also consigns to history the image propagated by medical novelists such as A.J. Cronin or Francis Brett Young of tired, pale, working-class women, worn out early by hard manual work and repeated childbearing, being encouraged to tolerate heavy periods without being offered recourse to specialised help.

The UCL figures show that by the age

of 43, 40 per cent of graduates have undergone a D&C compared with 24 per cent of those with minimal education. When it comes to hysterectomies 1 per cent of those women who gained a degree in their youth had lost their wombs in middle age, compared with 15 per cent of those without any qualifications.

The chance of having either a D&C or hysterectomy was proportional to the educational background of the patient, with university graduates and women with no qualifications being at the extremes of the gradient. The occupation

of the woman's partner was also significant, underlining the socio-economic as well as educational importance of the woman's background; surprisingly the woman's own social class, disregarding education, was statistically insignificant.

Although the likelihood of having a hysterectomy did bear a relationship to the number of children the woman had borne, and hence possibly to her socio-economic group, the hysterectomy rate was still



more closely related to educational background than to any other factor. The size of the woman's family, however, was not related to her chances of being admitted for a D&C.

The most striking difference in the hospital admission rates of graduates and those who left school at the minimum age with no qualifications and no post-school training, was in their liability to need hospital treatment for menstrual disorders. Only 1 per cent of the best educated

women went into hospital with these problems, compared with 19 per cent of early school leavers.

The class differences in gynaecological complaints and their treatment is related to the number of children a woman has; the higher incidence of cervical cancer among the less well educated must also be a factor. But it seems that other, more subtle influences are more important.

The research showed that a woman without much education was likely to opt for surgery, and therefore tended to press her doctor to refer her to a gynaecologist.

Although these women from the less affluent and less educated groups consulted their doctors more about heavy bleeding, evidence suggests that they were possibly not so well informed about gynaecology and therefore less likely to have the long consultations with their GPs which might have made them disinclined to resort to surgery at an early stage of their troubles.

Whatever the education and affluence of a patient, irregular bleeding between periods (whether after sexual intercourse or spontaneously), any post-menopausal bleeding, and any persistent heavy bleeding need investigation. When possible early hysterectomy is to be avoided, as it predisposes to heart disease and osteoporosis.



Barry Speker in the 1940s with his elder brother David (left) and mother Leonora, and today with his wife, Bega, and children, Sarah and Robert, outside their Gosforth home



If you were born in Newcastle in May or June 1947, doctors want to hear from you. That was the year that a landmark medical study, *A Thousand Families in Newcastle upon Tyne*, was launched. Nearly all the babies born in the city in those two months had their every cough, charted, their home environment dissected, and their parents scrutinised.

The participants provided a cross-section of social class, parental profession and family structure. Mothers were interviewed at length, and housing studies were done. The result is an unparalleled sample of social conditions and child health.

Now, nearly half a century later, researchers are trying to trace these "Red Spot" babies — so called because their medical records were marked with a red spot — to see how early childhood may have affected adult health.

"Newcastle was chosen for the study because the paediatricians here were concerned about the large number of children in their clinics with severe infections," explains Dr Louise Parker of the Institute of Child Health in Newcastle. It was the first time that such a large group of children had been followed for so long, and the study showed that infections and diseases, such as tuberculosis and polio, were more common among children from deprived backgrounds.

"It is so obvious that poor people get more illnesses," Dr Parker says. "But until this study it had never been documented in a scientific way. The poverty was astonishing. For example, one in three families shared a toilet

What happened to the class of 1947?

with other families," she says. Of 1,042 babies born, only four families refused to cooperate. Stillbirths, infant deaths and migration out of Newcastle cut to 967 the number of babies who were followed to the end of their first year. Led by Professor James Spence and Professor Fred Miller, the experiment blossomed into an unrivalled piece of social history, with three weighty books recording the medical, academic and social progress of the Red Spots until the age of 15.

There are statistics about how many children stammered, wet the bed, suffered a squint and had "contact with the law". The books are written in the stern, almost moralistic, language characteristic of social studies in the Fifties and Sixties. Chapters on illegitimacy contain cameos of problem families and reminders of the "wholesome relationship of stable marriage".

Barry Speker, a Newcastle solicitor, was born in the city on June 28, 1947, into what he describes as a lower middle-class family. "My first recollection of being a Red Spot goes back to when I was about two years old," he says. "A nurse used to give me 'jelly patches', a big plaster with gel underneath. My mother insisted my

Does a deprived childhood affect adult health? Anjana Ahuja on the follow-up to a landmark study



Dr Louise Parker with Red Spot birthday cards

elder brother had them as well, just in case they were doing some good. It made us feel special."

Mr Speker's father sold cinema advertising and his mother was a hairdresser before she married. Childhood, which brought all the usual diseases, was spent with his brother David in a terrace house with a live-in maid.

"Maids were not unusual in those days," Mr Speker says. "The really posh people had a television and a car."

The 11-plus examination was Mr Speker's passport to the state grammar school, where the foundations for his career in law were laid. Now he is a stalwart of the local community — married with one graduate daughter and a

teenage son, the senior partner in a law firm, a part-time district judge, an adviser to children's charities and lecturer on mental health law. His brother is also a solicitor. Neither, as the study might have predicted, has suffered health problems.

All the Red Spots had to sit intelligence tests. "I did them at grammar school and that was the first time I met other Red Spots," Mr Speker says. "And you could never forget that you were a Red Spot, because we would be sent a birthday card every year."

Pristine copies of the birthday cards sent to the Red Spots still lie in a file at the Sir James Spence Institute of Child Health, Newcastle. This is where, three years ago, the idea of reviving the study was conceived. Although the connections between poverty and childhood disease have been demonstrated by this and other studies, there are still many questions about class and health that remain unanswered. One of these is whether a deprived childhood casts a permanent shadow over adult health even if a person has climbed the social ladder. To help researchers to judge this,

the Red Spots will be asked about the community and environment in which they live, and to volunteer information about their council tax band, as a guide to wealth.

"The impetus for continuing the study came from Professor David Barker in Southampton," Dr Parker says. "His work indicates very strongly that the seeds of adult diseases, such as heart disease and late-onset diabetes, are sown before we are born. So if a woman was undernourished during pregnancy, it is likely that her child will be undernourished. This increases the risks of the child getting diseases in later life."

"With the Red Spots, we have unique documentation of people who are now approaching their fifties. We can begin to find out if the cycles of poverty and disease are still there," Dr Parker says. The Red Spots are being traced through their GPs, and local appeals. Most still live in the North of England, but items on the BBC World Service have alerted Red Spots in Hong Kong and Australia.

So far 344 have been traced. Of those, 30 have died and about 300 have responded positively to the renewed interest. The 48-year-olds will be sent a questionnaire about their lifestyle such as drinking, smoking and family life, and will also undergo a medical examination.

Dr Parker will conduct the follow-up, funded by a three-year £267,000 grant from the Wellcome Trust, with her colleague Professor Alan Craft, and Professor George Alberti from the Newcastle School of Medicine. "We are hoping to come back to the Red Spots — when they are in their sixties."

A new way to circulate your own blood

Nigel Hawkes on the advantages of the autologous transfusion

GOOD IDEAS in medicine do not always sweep all before them. A perfect example presented itself last week in Edinburgh, where a group of 200 medical, legal and patient representatives met to discuss autologous blood transfusion — the use by patients of their own blood during operations.

The idea is simple: you give your blood in the weeks running up to the operation, and get it back when it is needed. The risk of picking up somebody else's infection is eliminated, and so are the side-effects of being given blood that isn't your own. But for a

variety of reasons it has never caught on in Britain. The conference, which brought the experts together at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, concluded that there was "a low degree of public interest" in the technique, though it could be made widely available.

In America up to 10 per cent of those having elective surgery opt to have their own blood available. The main reason why few patients do so here is the great faith people have in the standard of donated blood, says Colonel Michael Thomas, a former director of the Army's blood supply unit and chairman of the Autologous Transfusion Group.

A benefit of autologous transfusion would be to ease pressure on blood supplies, particularly those for rare blood groups. Dr Michael Desmond, consultant anaesthetist at Broadgreen Hospital in Liverpool, said last week: "Cardiac surgery is going to increase in Britain and we must consider whether we are forever to ask people to donate more and more blood."

Patients who could benefit are those preparing for orthopaedic surgery. They would make up to four visits at weekly intervals before the operation, building up a supply of their own blood. In at least three-quarters of such operations, that would provide all that was needed.

amount. The costs balance out in operations in which demand for blood exceeds a litre. "Every hospital should now be considering this technique," he says.

In some cases, it could even be a life-saver. Where bleeding is excessive, finding enough units of the right type can be difficult. Recycling the patient's own blood puts less strain on the transfusion service, and on the patient.

BUT MORE controlled trials are needed to ensure that the benefits are realised, and that there are no unexpected problems. The experts recommended setting up a national register to record cases in which autologous transfusions go wrong.

Colonel Thomas hopes the consensus statement will be widely circulated, since pressure from patients and GPs is the best way to change the present apathetic climate. "We also need trusts to start thinking about it," he says. "We don't want to raise public expectations until the service is obtainable."



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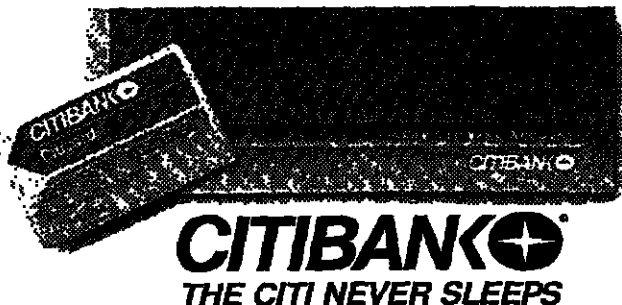
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With sweet Home at the Hirsels

Magnus Linklater remembers the gentle pragmatist PM

In 1992, a month before the election, I went to see Lord Home at the Hirsels, the family house near Coldstream in the Scottish Borders. We had lunch in the bay window of the large and draughty main dining room, which looks out over a steep escarpment, dropping away to the River Ure beneath.

Outside, a March gale tore through the trees and the burn boiled white with flood-water. He pointed out the level to which it had risen a week or so before, and assured me that it was now going down. It still looked fairly dramatic.

He wanted to talk about the devolution debate that was raging in Scotland in the run-up to the election. I had been warned that he tired easily, following the stroke he had suffered some 18 months earlier, after the death of his wife, Elizabeth. But although he needed some help in walking, and was nursing a paralysed arm, he was entirely lucid, animated even, and we talked for a good two hours as the windows rattled. I remember wondering if the weather had been similar when Neville Chamberlain went to the Hirsels in 1938 to recuperate after Munich.

called bitterly: "It was a magnificent if somewhat hammy performance. This quavering old aristocrat, this loyal servant of the British State, had done his bit for the Union again."

That, as I discovered from our lunchtime discussion, was not at all what had been in Lord Home's mind. He believed at the time that he was speaking up for Scotland. "The Act as drafted was divisive," he said. "It would have resulted in too much power for the central belt, and it would have alienated other regions like the Borders and the Highlands. More important, it didn't tackle the central difficulty of striking the balance between an assembly in Edinburgh and a Parliament at Westminster which has still not been solved. I'm sure it was right to vote against it."

But he was keener to talk about the Scotland of the present than to look back at the past. He wanted to make it clear that his misgivings were still that he had not come across a solution which would make devolution workable.

He understood the continued enthusiasm for change. He himself had always argued that a decentralisation of power from Westminster to Edinburgh would be a healthy reform in line with Conservative principles. He had no truck with those who saw it as the thin end of a nationalist wedge — "a very irritating argument," he called it.

He thought the division of power had never been settled

It was, for me, a fascinating discussion. Lord Home was not only the last of the gentlemen Prime Ministers, he was a throwback to that class of patriotic Tory which used once to command a majority of support in Scotland, but which scarcely exists at all today. The very first Minister of State for Scotland, appointed by Churchill in 1951 with the throwaway line "All right — have your Home sweet Home", he had first come to grips with Scottish affairs when the Prime Minister instructed him to "go and quell those turbulent Scots". As one himself, he came to the early conclusion that the best way of doing so was to give them a greater say in their own affairs.

He had no difficulty with the principle of devolution, and while remaining a convinced unionist, he said in his memoirs that he had "a good deal of sympathy with Scottish aspirations". In the pre-Thatcher era, he worked on a scheme for a directly elected Scottish assembly with its own legislative and funding powers, which might well have transformed the fortunes of his party north of the border.

But in 1979, Lord Home aroused anger — contempt even — among many Scottish voters when, at the time of the referendum on Labour's Scotland Act, he appeared on television urging a no vote. He thought the Act as drafted thoroughly unsatisfactory, and said voters should wait until something better came along. It was a critical intervention, and undoubtedly helped to swing votes against it. But "something better" never did come along, and there are many devolutionists who still find it hard to forgive him.

Writing about it later, the former Editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, Arnold Kemp, re-

He is own report — issued in 1970, after he set up under Edward Heath — had suggested that a Scottish assembly should debate Scottish Bills, with a third reading in the House of Commons, in order to emphasise the unity of the United Kingdom and to give Westminster what he called "a background power of disallowance". But looking back, he felt that this had been the weakest part of his report. "I don't really think we ever solved that problem," he told me. "I could see it leading to endless arguments between the two bodies. Where do you draw the line? Where does real power lie? Would it work?"

I asked if he would like to see something published along these lines, but he thought not. "I don't really think I should get involved again," he said. "I don't think I've got the energy or the knowledge now to make a useful contribution." I left him sitting next to the fire in the drawing room of the Hirsels, a frail and gentle figure, balancing a cup of tea on his knee. He might, I thought, be remembered as an amateur politician, but he remained a pragmatist to the end.



The new wind of change

The governing classes should listen to Howarth's message from the people

Two class conferences are at it this week: two halls full of attentive listeners, their leaders pretty framed in plywood and soundboards. They are renewing acquaintances, nodding in sympathy with a popular speaker and frowning at a daring one, rising to cheer and risking the occasional boo.

Two different conferences, on the face of it: the Tories in Blackpool, and the Headmasters' Conference in Dublin. But the more you think about it the more unerring parallels there are. The Conservatives may rule the country and the HMC only 253 public schools, but their preoccupations echo one another uncannily, and so do their reactions. A carefully crafted speech about corporate strategy, financial management, presentation, initiatives, moral renaissance, hearts and minds and traditional values could, at a pinch, be delivered at both without anybody noticing.

Nor would it take Alan Bennett to script a murmurous conversation in the bar: something about the unfairness of the media, the essential irrelevance of sexual scandals and the fate of poor old Tim, so unfairly shafted by his board of governors — sorry, constituency party.

I spent some time on Sunday amusing myself by drawing more parallels. Both the Conservative Party and the public schools know what it is to be dogged by sex scandals. Both enjoy a love-hate relationship with the media, courting us one moment and blaming everything on us the next. Both have an uneasy, sullen feeling that their traditional base of unquestioning supporters is growing restless. Both contain elements so arrogant that they horribly embarrass the majority. I know this because last year I indulged myself with a Miss Piggy swipe at the HMC chairman Roy Chapman for having had the nerve to say that the independent schools could fill the "gaping moral vacuum" of society because parents had already made an "important moral decision" in paying for their children's education.

Well, I ranted, I admit it. Did any heads' heads, I demanded, get buried in their hands when he said that? Did it occur to anybody that it is a bit steep for these frequently uncharitable "charities" to praise their well-off clients as a moral elite at the expense of nurses, teachers, ambulance crews and so on? I received only one letter of

headmasterly reproof: from Gordonston, meekly pointing out that they are good eggs who run the local fire brigade and have bags of public spirit. All the other letters were from heads mainly saying yes, they were exceedingly embarrassed, and wished their leaders would remember, when inspired to promote moral values, the golden teaching rule of "Show, don't tell".

Which brings me to more parallels. Both Tories and headmasters tend, when feeling vulnerable, to fall back on waffle about traditional values. And both are suffering, right now, from an attack of Two Nations disease. The lower orders, with whom they thought they had a bluffy cordial relationship, have started throwing things.

What gets thrown at the Conservative Party I need not detail; but I was intrigued at the weekend to see reports for the first time in living memory that the boys of Harrow School are being set upon in the street: ten incidents this term. The *Harrovian* magazine, in an anonymous editorial, has pleaded with boys to stop swaggering down the road like "the stereotypical little rich kid". The pupil who wrote it clearly — and generously — feels that although the violence is on one side, there could be faults on both. He sounds like any Tory wet, fretting about the perception of his party. Meanwhile, assorted teenagers at Harrow bus station told reporters that Harrovians flash their money around in McDonald's and eye up local girls in a provocatively seigniorial way.

In other words, this particular hostility is based on real feeling, not on some failure of PR. It parallels the wider, despairing anger of Middle Britain faced with governmental swagger and misdirected spending: it is the feeling which led to the devastating step taken by Middle Britain's new champion, Alan Howarth. There is a new wind blowing, and both public schools and Conservatives try to turn it back with

the feeble weapons of publicity. The HMC is going to waste time this week discussing not education, not how to reach beyond the boundaries of wealth, create more scholarships and enrich more young lives, but how to "present" itself. The headmaster of Uppingham is going to demand a "corporate relaunch", and propose that they commission a TV soap about a boarding school. Honest.

What the Conservatives will propose I do not yet know, but the odds are that it will be equally presentational. Tax cuts, after all, are nothing but presentation: if the country is divided and disorderly and the public services in a mess, nobody feels any richer anyway. We end up spending it all on burglar alarms, Bupa or private education.

The one area where the headmasters are streets ahead of the Tories is that — being used to difficult parents, and only seeing one another for outbreaks of *folie à deux* once a year — they do acknowledge doubters, and stay polite. They do not denounce their detractors. They ask them round and try to show, not tell.

Whereas Tories just lash out without listening or thinking. In the case of Alan Howarth, one man's honest and moving statement set his old colleagues hissing like a nest of malignant vipers. On *Breakfast with Frost*, the defector spoke gently, modestly and from the heart. Whether or not Tony Blair's gang is all he hopes, it is plain that his faith is sincere. It was like a holiday to hear an MP so hungry for generosity and optimism and social justice. Reader, I believed him.

Then on came John Redwood, calling him "eccentric", observing cynically how betrayed the electors of Stratford must feel, and implying that he had chickened out of a public debate. John Major patronisingly added that he would "regret his mistake", and Alan Clark called him

"batty" and "treacherous" and said that Peter Mandelson obviously wrote the resignation letter and Howarth just signed it (libellous, do you think?). Then Brian Mawhinney, lashing his tail, called him "bizarre", pretended to be "sad" at "the end of a political career", and made cracks about Dennis Skinner. (Unwise, considering that his own party attracts the likes of Master Hinchcliffe, the alarming 14-year-old from Tottenham who has saved up all his pocket money to go to Blackpool this week to expand upon his views that beggars ought to "fish in the Thames and pick fruit off the trees", that "poor people should stop complaining" and the local hospital is "full of old geriatrics who waste the taxpayer's money". All parties have nutters, Dr Mawhinney. They do not invalidate the mainstream, yours or Labour's.)

It was all exceedingly nasty and unconstructive and lightweight: the rattle of hollow politicians who have long ceased caring about anything, except hanging on. It was not only unkind, but probably suicidal.

For the new wind blowing from the electorate is likely to bowl over anybody light and hollow and unbalanced by genuine care. What all parties should know is that — leaving aside Mr Blair's fairly embarrassing rhetoric of last week — there genuinely is a new hunger for a more just, kinder society. Not just a richer one: we all know times can be hard, and that wolves beyond our control howl after the national sledge: what we cannot bear is seeing the children and the old and the sick cavalierly thrown off it in "our" interest. I get letters, dozens every week; I meet far more people outside the media and politics than within them. The constant impression is that far from Westminster's narrow thinking preoccupations there is an ever more insistent call for a change of heart, for fairness and compassion. It comes from stuffy Old Tory country landowners and retired admirals, from dismayed ex-employees and anxious parents of all classes, from professionals and cleaners, WRVS stalwarts, JPs and teenagers and commuters and salesmen and small-conservative like Alan Howarth.

He meant what he said, and Stratford voters would be daft to let him go. Whether Mr Blair's lot are as good as he hopes we shall have to decide, but anybody who sneers at what he tried to say at the weekend is a fool, and good riddance to them.

Saying goodbye to a party

Woodrow Wyatt on the pain of changing sides

I was neither an MP nor a parliamentary candidate when I left the Labour Party in the mid 1970s. I had lost my seat at Bosworth in 1970 after 11 years, ending 25 years' Commons membership, apart from four years out of the House in 1955-59. I knew something was wrong when the Coalville miners' band played at a fête in the garden of the local Conservative Party chairman. The dwindling numbers of miners disliked Labour's high taxation on their substantial earnings and many voted against me. When I had lost after a recount, some extreme left-wing members of the local party said it was because I was thought to be a Tory. "Why else do you think they have been voting for me in this rural hunting constituency?" By 1992 it had become a safe Conservative seat with a majority of over 10,000.

I voted Tory in 1974 but like Alan Howarth, I found it hard to cut the emotional ties with my old party. We had been drifting apart for years over such issues as steel nationalisation and the growing communist influence in the unions causing Labour's policies to move ever leftwards. My defection brought me obloquy as a traitor from party activists in the Aston and Bosworth constituencies, though not so much as I expected. Jim Meadows, my agent at Aston and a Lord Mayor of Birmingham, sympathised with my attitude and warnings of Labour's increasing unacceptability. I never lost the friendship of Frank Chapple of the electrician's union, nor of Eric Hammond, who became its general secretary, nor of Bill Jordan and Gavin Laird, president and general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. We had all fought together against communist encroachment.

Naturally there were old Commons colleagues who spurned me. Tony Benn — whom I have always liked and admired despite his wild eccentricities — was one. Roy Hattersley was another. He turned his back on me if we happened to be in the same room, though that was no great hardship. In the Lords I have felt some lingering resentments. Lady White of Rhymer tends to look at me as if I were something the cat brought in. But on the whole I have always found Labour MPs more friendly and with more genuine warmth than most of their opposite numbers. Their problem is having treated their faith in Labour more on a religious than a secular plane, making it difficult for them to adapt to changing circumstances. They are certainly having a crash course from Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson now.

Tony Crosland disapproved of my support for Margaret Thatcher, but this did not change the warmth of a friendship of 30 years' standing. Mr did Roy Jenkins. The latter, then President of the European Commission, was himself about to make a dramatic breach from Labour, with the inception of the SDP by the Gang of Four, which included Shirley Williams and David Owen (who had succeeded as Foreign Secretary when Crosland died in February 1977).

The defection of senior Labour figures was so prevalent in those days that Tony Blair's glowing today over gaining one unimportant former junior minister looks out of all proportion. It was nothing more than a dirty trick designed to blow up the Tory conference. When this sinks into the public consciousness, there will be no harm done to John Major but a good deal to Mr Blair.

It is unpleasant to see the hapless Mr Howarth coaxed and coached into deceiving his constituents by using his parliamentary vote in the opposite way intended by the large majority who elected him in 1992. Even as Blair spoke at his party conference of the noble ideals of the new Britain he proposed to create, he was plotting the most dishonourable and unscrupulous political manoeuvre I have ever known. In honour, Blair should require his new recruit to resign and fight the consequent by-election. But, disappointingly, Blair has sacrificed honour for ambition.

Since I left Labour I have not joined any other party, and I never will. As has been said in another context, some of my best friends are Tories. My being in the Labour Party never clouded my friendships from Oxford pre-war days — with Julian Amery, Hugh Fraser, Ted Heath, Maurice Macmillan and so on. But there is something unattractive in the modern Tory parliamentary party. Too many Tory MPs are too much concerned with making money as a by-product of their status, and too little concerned with the principles of duty and service to their country. Margaret Thatcher and John Major unmistakably put their country first, as did Alec Douglas-Home.

He was a model of the unselfish MP, and so impressed the country with his sincerity that he came within four votes of defeating Harold Wilson in 1964. When he was replaced by Ted Heath as leader, he willingly served him as Foreign Secretary in the Tory Government of 1970-74. Tory selection committees should look for more of his ilk, and not be bewitched by the smooth-talking smoothies they so often select.

Safer hands

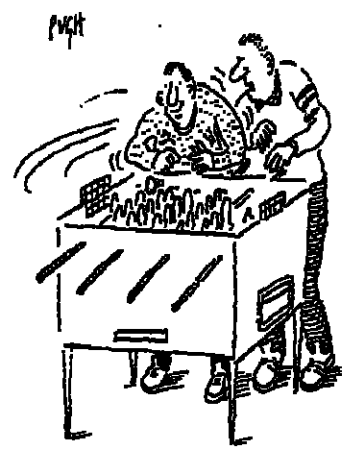
THE HOTTEST tip for a Conservative candidate in Stratford to replace Alan Howarth, the defector to Labour, is Francis Maude, the former Treasury minister who works for a merchant bank.

Maude's ability when in office was widely respected, and he knows the constituency well: his late father Angus replaced John Profumo as MP for Stratford in 1963, after the War Minister resigned over his affair with Christine Keeler. He became Lord Maude of Stratford-upon-Avon.

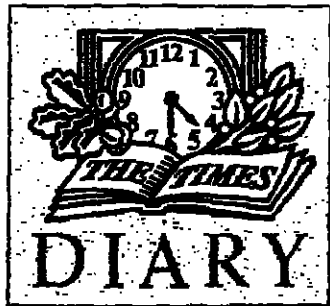
Maude has refused to be drawn yesterday about whether he would be putting his own name forward, but he admits he is fond of Stratford. "My links go back a long way. My first political activities there were when I was ten and my father was fighting the by-election. I was still in short trousers and I used to help carry campaign posters around."

Maude is contemptuous of Howarth's left turn. "The local party has been kicked in the teeth," he said. "After all, Alan and I co-founded the right-wing No Turning Back Group in 1983, and now look at what he's done."

● *Patric Walker, who died at the weekend, took to astrology for business reasons after a dinner party where he met Celeste, the venerable lady astrologer on Harper's Bazaar. She predicted the collapse of the property business he was building up. "Just as she said, it went down, and I was so impressed I wanted to know how she did it." The answer — and his new business — lay in the stars.*



"If things aren't going well, you can't just change sides"



venerable lady astrologer on Harper's Bazaar. She predicted the collapse of the property business he was building up. "Just as she said, it went down, and I was so impressed I wanted to know how she did it." The answer — and his new business — lay in the stars.

Happy family

BRITAIN'S most fecund monogamous peer is celebrating the forthcoming marriage of one of his extensive brood. Lord Teynham, who has five sons and five daughters by his wife Elizabeth, is marrying off Sophie, 28, his second eldest daughter, to one Rupert Van den Bogaerde.

Like the Bennet parents in *Pride and Prejudice*, Teynham is looking forward to seeing all his offspring spliced. "It will be a while yet. My

youngest, Alice, is only 11. But it would be nice to have them all to Christmas lunch with spouses and grandchildren, though we will have to build an extension first."

Teynham's claim to being the most fertile peer is piped only by that of the Earl of Stradbroke, who has 15 children by two wives, and lists his recreation in *Who's Who* as "making babies".

Two by two

AMONG THE 350 singers and musicians belting out highlights from *Les Misérables* at the show's noisy 10th anniversary party at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday night was Elizabeth Watts, who starred in the show five years ago. Almost as soon as she came off stage she gave birth to twins, two weeks early.

"I got home at midnight and by 8.45 that morning I had two little girls," she said yesterday, recovering in her hospital bed in Highgate. "There was a lot of cannon and gunfire and fireworks, so that might have started it off."

Bellyful

AS THE LAST aristocrat among Prime Ministers, the late Lord Home was as happy in the com-



Gloucester: bemused

pany of royalty as on the front benches. There was one royal expedition, however, which he confessed he could have done without. In the 1930s as a young MP, he escorted the late Duke of Gloucester (a military man not renowned

for his quick ripostes) to Cairo to see King Farouk. The King laid on a sumptuous dinner and afterwards summoned a belly-dancer, who had been entertaining the royal table, to introduce her personally to the Duke.

Gloucester was stumped, and an embarrassing silence followed before his moustache bristled with military pride. "Ever been the barracks at Tidworth?" he barked. Her reply is not recorded.

Beeb boob

THE FIRST casualty of strict policing at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool was Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor. Oakley ended up at the local nick after arriving at the Imperial Hotel at 2.30am yesterday, only to be refused admission because he didn't have his security pass.

"He spent an hour and a half down there, and was getting to the stage of asking to be down for the night in one of the cells with the lotusam off the street when they sorted it out," says a colleague. This is not a first for Oakley. At a Liberal Democrat conference a couple of years back, he lost his hotel room key and was forced to kip in the foyer.

P.H.S.



THE HOME WAY

Lessons from the man who lived from Munich to Maastricht

Lord Home of the Hirsel was the last Prime Minister to be called to office from the House of Lords, the only one to have played first-class cricket — and, we predict, the last to do my sums with matchsticks. His jests came with a broad grin so lopsided that his playwright brother once likened him to a clown halfway through doing his make-up. His half-nude spectacles were dubbed "humies" in Whitehall corridors. Propelled to 10 Downing Street by the ailing Harold Macmillan in 1963, to the surprise of many in his party and the unforgiving wrath of a few, his tenure as Prime Minister was the shortest in Britain's postwar history.

The Conservative Party conference will observe a minute's silence in his honour this morning. Once the silence is over, they should soberly reflect on the forces that drove them from power in 1964, and Lord Home from the party leadership a scant nine months later. For Alec Douglas-Home was a tougher and more realistic politician than either the grouse-moor jests, or the merciless whispering that led to his ousting by Edward Heath, would suggest. But, as *The Times* observed at the time, he led a tired party.

The Government, 12 years in office, was reeling from the Profumo scandal. Then, as now, Labour had found in Harold Wilson a self-proclaimed moderniser with a vision of national success founded in new technology. There is, too, a decidedly contemporary ring to our editorial criticism of a party that seemed to have lost "the ability to rekindle its purpose". The popular image of Macmillan's "politics of affluence", we wrote, had come to be that of "the acquisition of wealth by the least effort and by shady

means". If the Tories were to make any sort of a fight in 1964, they had "to go to the country with a new look". In retrospect, it was a remarkable achievement that 15 months later, Douglas Home took the Tories to within a few seats of electoral victory.

First drawn to politics, in 1929, by concern for the unemployed in his home area of Lanarkshire, Lord Home's career spanned the decades from pre-war Conservatism to modern free-market Toryism, from Munich where his slight figure appears next to Chamberlain in the photographs — to Maastricht. Although loyal to Chamberlain, he was never a yes-man: it took courage for a relatively junior politician to criticise Churchill in 1944 for betraying Poland at Yalta.

The most fitting epitaph yesterday came from a man who refused to serve in his Cabinet, Enoch Powell. Lord Home, he said, was "that rarest thing in politics — a politician whose word one can trust". And Lord Home's on Mr Powell? Asked, many years later, what he would have offered him, he had joined the Government, he replied: "I'd have made him purge Whitehall. He'd have been extremely good at it."

His integrity was unyielding — sometimes too much so for his party. The revolt against him almost certainly began with his announcement, on losing power in 1964, that the role of a loyal Opposition was to support the Government when it acted in the public interest. But this sense of the national interest served him well in two terms as Foreign Secretary, and few politicians, at the end of their careers, have inspired such affection in the Conservative Party. If Lord Home was a political anachronism, then politics is the poorer for the passing of his humane, Christian, Tory breed.

FEELING GOOD

Are the world's finance ministers blind to economic realities?

The self-satisfaction displayed by finance ministers and central bankers at this year's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank is in direct contrast with the unease of their publics. The absence of the mysterious "feel-good" factor so much lamented by politicians is a worldwide phenomenon. Everywhere, people are increasingly worried about job security and unemployment. They feel that their taxes are too high, that their living standards are falling and that the economic news will get worse before it improves.

When finance ministers and central bankers indulge in mutual back-slapping, they do not reassure voters. On the contrary, they feed suspicion that politicians and bureaucrats live on "a different planet". Consider the key phrases from the weekend communiqué from the Group of Seven: "The ministers and central bank governors agreed that in most countries the conditions for continued growth and employment gains are in place and inflation is well under control. The constructive monetary and fiscal policy measures outlined and implemented in recent months have contributed to this improved outlook. Ministers and governors welcomed the orderly reversal in the movements of the major currencies that began following their April meeting."

This Panglossian statement is hardly an accurate reflection of reality. Growth has actually weakened and employment performance has deteriorated in every G7 country — even by comparison with the none too demanding projections issued by the IMF staff at the G7 meeting six months ago.

Can the contribution of monetary and fiscal policy really be described as constructive on the very day when France has sharply raised interest rates to "defend" the franc against the normal action of market forces? As for the "orderly reversal" in exchange rates which the ministers welcomed, the German mark is just 4 per cent from the dizzying record levels it hit against the

dollar, the franc and the lira six months ago. The G7 ministers say in their defence that their optimism refers to future prospects rather than recent performance, which they admit has been disappointing. But this claim does not stand up. Looking ahead to the next year or so, the prospects for job creation and growth in America and Canada do seem substantially brighter after the inevitable pause in the very strong economic recoveries they registered last year.

In Japan and Continental Europe, by contrast, the outlook remains grim. And while the Japanese Government has at least begun to get to grips with its economic problems, the situation in Continental Europe seems to be deteriorating and government-economic policies are making it worse. In France and Germany, particularly, factory closures and relocations to more competitive countries have become an almost daily occurrence.

Yet European governments, hypnotised by European Monetary Union and Maastricht, are doing next to nothing to reduce taxes, social charges or minimum wages. Meanwhile the central banks, especially the Bank of France, are actually making matters worse with over-tight monetary policies designed to make already overvalued currencies even less competitive.

In Blackpool this week, Kenneth Clarke would be well advised to set out a sober assessment of Britain's prospects than he and his colleagues have offered in Washington. In Britain, where there was far less need than in North America for this year's slowdown, the economy should accelerate again in the year ahead, provided the Chancellor keeps interest rates down and does nothing irresponsible in next month's Budget. But Continental Europe accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Britain's trade. British exporters can take little comfort from any general improvement in world economic prospects which leaves Europe ever further behind.

TALKING UP THE DORM

That old school tie has a flexible knot as well as a tight one

A third of parents of children at boarding school believe that their family relationships have been improved by sending their children away to school. While 28 per cent believe that their children are actually enjoying the experience of boarding school. This latest survey of the peculiar English institution has been made by the Independent Schools Information Service. And like the mysterious goddess of its acronym, Isis speaks with oracular tongue.

For example, it is not surprising that parents who are spending up to £13,500 a year should find merit in the way they have chosen to educate their children. They would have to, wouldn't they? Most of those who reminisce about what were called "the happiest days of their lives" (by those who had already served their term) went to boarding school in the pre-modernist era. The Isis survey describes a boarding revolution since those days of fagging and flogging and dormitory feasts. Nearly half of the boys never write home: the Sunday morning ritual of compulsory letter-writing, subject to censorship to avoid uranian complaints or disloyal libels, seems to have passed. Most boarders telephone home once a week. Almost all spend several nights at home every term, in addition to half-term.

In short, the boarding school, tradition from Greyfriars to Angela, Brazil's jolly-hockey-sticks academies has been sub-

verted. Daisy no longer needs to pull it off alone; she can just phone home. And if Bunter were ever made to shriek Yarroooh by cane across his sponge-bag trousers today, Mr Quelch would be up in front of an even sterner beak at the European court.

As George Orwell noticed, boarding school was a mythical archetype for children who never had a hope or dread of going to it. It provided the foundation training for and psychic material for writers from Roald Dahl and Richard Ingrams to Shelley and to Gibbon, who wrote of Westminster: "at the cost of many tears and some blood I purchased a knowledge of Latin syntax."

Boarding is not what it was. But then it never has been. More than two centuries ago, a failed headmaster complained that there was less flogging in England's great schools than formerly, but then less was learnt there: "so what the boys get at one end, they lose at the other". League tables show that the best boarding schools, especially the single-sex ones, are academically still among the best in the land without recourse to flogging. The number of boarders has dwindled for the past four years, and most parents find that they have to defend their decision to choose boarding to other parents. But the latest survey shows that the remarkable British habit of sending their children away to school for three-quarters of the year has long legs as well as deep roots.

MP's defection to Labour

From Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, In justifying his deplorable decision to join the Labour Party, Mr Alan Howarth, MP, assured us that he had wanted to watch the Labour Party conference on television before making his final commitment (reports, October 9).

Can he really have watched the two-hour session on education (as I did) and still regard the Labour Party as committed to the philosophy of "one nation"? Or was he content with faxes of the platform speeches and the support of the platform given in the vote which was the product of a prearranged deal for the trade union bloc votes?

Listening to the floor debate and noting the reactions of the audience, it was abundantly clear that nothing has changed. We had the same calls for identical neighbourhood comprehensives as the only permissible type of school and for control by the same local authorities and their staffs whose performance over the years has left so much to be desired.

There was not the slightest evidence that the delegates, many of whom we are told were schoolteachers or school governors, had the slightest interest in children either of limited ability or of exceptional talent. Any idea that the national interest might be served by the cultivation of exceptional capacity was ruled out.

One was reminded of the reply by the French revolutionaries to Lavolastier as he was dragged to the guillotine: "The Republic has no need of scientists." What price Mr Blair's technological revolution with teachers like these?

Nor was there any respect for parental choice. The cheering for a delegate who attacked Mr and Mrs Blair for deciding on their children's education in the light of their own educational and religious priorities was enough to disgust one with the Labour Party now and for ever. If ever one saw justification for the belief that socialism is a polite name for the politics of envy this was the occasion. Not "one nation" but "class war".

What on earth does Mr Howarth think he would be doing in this outfit?

Yours faithfully,
BELLOFF,
House of Lords,
October 9.

From Councillor Richard Buckley

Sir, I think Alan Howarth is wrong and I don't agree with what he has done. But I am a Conservative and I find the campaign of character assassination and vilification against him deeply distasteful.

Mr Howarth is clearly a thoughtful and an honourable man who has struggled to make an enormously difficult decision. The suggestion of mid-life crises and so on emanating from his former colleagues go, in my opinion, far beyond the robust knock-about that we all expect in politics.

This is, sadly, typical of politics today and all parties are equally guilty. It is little wonder that politicians are held in such low esteem by members of the public.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUCKLEY,
19 Corringham Road,
Wembley Park, Middlesex,
October 9.

From Mr Henry Bellingham, MP for North West Norfolk (Conservative)

Sir, The last sitting Tory MP who defected was Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler in 1981, and I ended up as the principal beneficiary. I was selected to fight the seat soon after he crossed the floor, and my first task was to help to rebuild the local association. They had obviously received a body blow, and felt desperately let down by the man for whom they had worked tirelessly during the past 12 years.

I am therefore only too well aware how the hundreds of local Conservative Party workers in Stratford-upon-Avon must feel this morning. Is it any wonder they are bitter at having just learnt that their trusted MP has been secretly plotting his public relations broadside with the Leader of the Opposition?

The first that many of these party workers learnt about Alan Howarth's defection was through the national press: what a shabby reward. Why on earth could he not have followed the example of Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler who, in spite of pressure from elsewhere, insisted that the first people to be told of his decision to leave the Tory party should be his party members at their AGM?

If the voters at Stratford-upon-Avon wanted a Labour MP they would presumably have voted one in at the last election. Surely if Mr Howarth wishes to retain any honour at all, he should now consult them in a by-election.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BELLINGHAM,
House of Commons,
October 9.

From Mr S. T. Eason

Sir, How can Mr Alan Howarth reconcile his dislike of "an arrogance of power... which is damaging to our democracy" with his apparent intention to continue to represent the electors of Stratford-upon-Avon (Conservative majority 22,892)?

Yours faithfully,
S. T. EASON,
6 King Edward Close,
Christ's Hospital,
Horsham, West Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Guidance for Bernard Levin on being Jewish

From Mr Jonathan Fisher

Sir, Bernard Levin ("The Jews who choose", October 6) should not shed too many crocodile tears for Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks and the Jewish people.

In his Day of Atonement message Dr Sacks sought to touch the hearts and minds of those whose lives have drifted from observant Judaism, and most successfully indeed, for even the "apostate Levin" was driven to reflect on his attitude towards religion in the columns of your newspaper. But Mr Levin is surely wrong to attribute knowledge to Dr Sacks that he is fighting a losing cause and that indifference will extinguish the Jewish people.

The post-war years witnessed an unprecedented revival in Jewish learning and observance which gathered pace after Israel's Six Day War in June 1967.

Demand for places in Jewish schools has increased dramatically in recent years and presently outstrips the places which are available. Religious universities and seminaries throughout the world are flourishing. Many teenagers spend a year in Israel studying Jewish religion and heritage before returning to secular education and pursuing a career.

At a local level the numbers of worshippers regularly attending our synagogue continue to increase, and a vibrancy reverberates within its walls. Other synagogues in London have similar experiences.

Perhaps before next prophesying the ultimate doom of the Jewish people, Mr Levin would like to pay us a visit. We would be pleased to see him.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN FISHER
(Chairman),
Chigwell & Hainault Synagogue,
Chigwell,
Essex IG7 5NT,
October 6.

Pleasure in 'Pride'

From Mr A. J. P. Nott

Sir, I read with astonishment Susan Elkin's comments ("Prejudiced against TV", Education, October 6) about how "misguided" teachers should not "lob schoolchildren off" by showing the current BBC TV serialisation of *Pride and Prejudice*.

She talks of the "Austen-Elkin hotline" which has helped her to understand the finer qualities of the novel. "She and I", she declares, "have no need of any other interpreter". Oh to have a class full of Susan Elkins!

Unfortunately, the children I am introducing to Jane Austen do not have such access to the author's thoughts and feelings. They do need help interpreting the narrative and characterisation.

Judicious use of the video has made a dramatic impact on their enjoyment of the story and has brought alive

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Bernard Levin, in his thoughtful article, answers his own question when he tells us that he doesn't hesitate to put "Jew" when asked to indicate his religion. This from a man with no religious commitment. So why does he do it?

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks is not the "Chief Rabbi of Britain". He is Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of the UK. This is the central orthodox Jewish body but does not represent progressive Jewry, and while orthodoxy may be losing adherents, others are not.

We of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain recognise outmarriage to be a major threat and face it by welcoming people in, rather than by putting obstacles in their way. It is also our practice to encourage Jews married to a non-Jewish partner who does not wish to convert to pray with us.

We do not claim that Reform Judaism is alone in sustaining our faith in the face of the threat of assimilation. We do, however, emphasise the importance of reconciling traditional belief and practice to an accommodation with contemporary life.

That one tiny, persecuted and obnoxious religious group survives still, despite all the odds, gives us cause to suggest that history is on our side rather than against us.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire,
October 6.

From Mr Jonathan Paisner

Sir, That Bernard Levin should choose to talk about religion and expect others to share his avowed non-interest in the subject baffles me. However disconcerting statistics on the death of religion may appear, many people are in fact turning to religion for answers and values that

characters whom they have previously encountered in the novel.

However, the children are by no means satisfied with merely watching the television version. They have been enthused by it but are keen to know "what happens in the book" and, through no coercion from me, have spent much of their free time reading ahead.

They bring their own insights and observations into lessons and are able to compare critically on the television adaptation.

Comparing the characters they have pictured in their minds and those playing the parts on television has proved a particularly fruitful exercise.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW NOTT
(Teacher of English),
St Andrew's School,
Meads, Eastbourne, East Sussex,
October 6.

Child benefit

From Mrs J. R. Gair

Sir, Nigella Lawson's views on universal child benefit ("Nanny state for working parents", October 3) are in some respects admirable but I disagree with her idea for creating a more equitable system by introducing tax relief on all forms of childcare.

Having watched Channel 4's Cutting Edge documentary, *Nannies*, last night I felt that it was time to recognise the importance of mothers or fathers staying at home to look after their own small children if at all possible.

A way of helping families to do this would be to institute a tax allowance for each child, to be claimed by either of the parents, so that the family income would be increased. If the parents wished, they could spend this extra allowance on childcare but it would not be restricted to families where both parents are employed outside the home.

Child benefit could then become a more generous social security payment to be given to those whose needs warrant such extra provision.

Yours faithfully,
SUSANNE M. GAIR,
38 Scarcroft Hill, York,
October 3.

Early Christians

From the Reverend Peter Vargeson

Sir, Dr Brian Pomeroy (letter, October 5) refers to Augustine's mission to bring Christianity to the English. Augustine, when he landed in Kent in 597, was met by Ethelbert, King of Kent, who was sympathetic to the Christian faith, and whose wife Bertha was a Christian. The first Christian in Britain whose name is recorded is Alban, about the year 304, and in 359 British bishops are recorded as being present at the Council of Rimini.

In addition, the chapel at Lullingstone in Kent dates from about 360, as do the chapels at Silchester, Hampshire, and Hinton St Mary, Dorset. It is an oft-repeated myth that Augustine brought Christianity to these islands, although it is true that he did much to order and strengthen the Church in England.

Yours etc,
PETER VARGESON,
The Vicarage,
School Road, Bursledon,
Southampton, Hampshire.

empty newspaper articles, such as Mr Levin's, will inevitably fail to provide.

The subtext of Mr Levin's article, of course, is that no matter how much bacon he may eat, no matter how many Jewish festivals he ignores, he is still, in the eyes of all around him, a Jew. Mr Levin and I share a wonderful religion. How sad it is that his experience of it amounts to nothing more than the begrudging acceptance of an identity you cannot escape.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN PAISNER,
106 Ledbury Road, W11,
October 9.

From Mr Paul Shrank

Sir, Bernard Levin should not be so smug in his apostasy. Throughout his story false prophets have forecast the demise of the Jews. In the meantime, attendances at my synagogue during the High Holy Days continue to break previous records and on Yom Kippur we were full to the rafters.

Sincerely,
PAUL SHRANK (Chairman),
The New North London Synagogue,
80 East End Road, Finchley, N3,
October 6.

From Mr Victor Ross

Sir, Bernard Levin does not "really understand what being a Jew means". I can tell him. It is the unique experience of anti-semitism. No one who is not a Jew can know it; no Jew can escape it. It is what makes me proud and keeps me strong and names me brother to every other Jew (even the ones who make me feel ashamed). If anti-semitism disappeared tomorrow I might forget that I am a Jew but I would be the loser.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR ROSS,
Worren Mill,
Great Chart, nr Ashford, Kent,
October 8.

Dance's prospects

From Mr John Percival

Sir, Only six months ago Sadler's Wells Theatre seemed sure to be among the earliest beneficiaries of the National Lottery for its bold, economical and much-needed scheme to turn itself into London's ideal home for dance and related lyric arts. The Arts Lottery Board appeared to confirm that, by providing funds for the preparatory work that is now well advanced.

Let us hope that when the board meets on October 11 to decide whether to provide money for the full scheme, it will not be put off by criticism of the help promised meanwhile to Covent Garden. Sadler's Wells has never been an elitist establishment, its plans offer a fine new stage and public spaces at a bargain price, and without it dance in Britain — not just in London — will be in serious danger of withering away.

Now is the time for courage and generous action, or history may not forgive our generation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PERCIVAL,
36 Great James Street, WC1,
October 5.

O. J. Simpson trial

From Mr C. W. Koenigsberger

Sir, The crux of Ben Macintyre's article ("Has OJ trial hurt blacks?", October 5) is that O. J. Simpson was wrongly not found guilty because of race. This contention is principally based upon the white female juror who voted to acquit even though "she believed Simpson was probably guilty".

Any juror who believes that an accused is probably guilty must vote for acquittal since conviction requires belief in guilt "beyond reasonable doubt".

Yours faithfully,
C. W. KOENIGSBERGER,
15 Straffan Lodge,
1 Belsize Grove, NW3,
October 5.

Windfall tax

From Mr W. M. Forrest

Sir, In any democratic society the principle of a windfall tax should be denounced by all political parties as capricious, arbitrary, invidious, unpredictable, retrospective and, in the present case of the privatised utilities, actuated by malice and opportunism (letters, September 21, 23, 30, October 5). Which of us will be the next victims of this dangerous doctrine?

Yours faithfully,
W. M. FORREST,
42 Lifford Road,
Wimbledon Common, SW19,
October 5.

Testing, testing...

From Mr E. M. Feld

Sir, Means-tested benefits have become a fashionable topic of debate among all parties. I was under the impression that such a system is already operative. It is called income tax.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FELD,
36 Grove House,
Waverley Grove, N3,
October 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 9: The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the WWF Executive Committee at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
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Luncheon

English-Speaking Union
Mr Martin Bell, Eastern European Correspondent, BBC TV News, was the speaker at an English-Speaking Union literary luncheon held at Dartmouth House yesterday. Baroness Braddock, chairman, presided and, with Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general, welcomed the guests.

Reception

Ordinance Board
Rear-Admiral M.R. Thomas, President of the Ordinance Board, and officers of the Ordnance Board, were the guests at a reception held at the Ordnance Board House yesterday. Mr James Arbuthnot, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, received the guests.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Dr Brian Smith, Chairman, BAA, was the speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held at Overseas House, St James's, last night. Mr T.S. Lanley presided.

Dinner

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Iddow Pugh, and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr J. Wynford Evans, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Mr Nigel R. Jones, Chairman, Williams Holdings Plc. Mr Rod Thurman, Edwards Gilders Solicitors, presided.

Lady Alexandra Metcalfe

A memorial service for Lady Alexandra Metcalfe will be held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, at noon, Thursday, October 12 (Entry by way of Cleveland Row and Stable Yard).

Dr Judith Jago

A service to commemorate the life and work of Dr Judith Jago, first Headmistress of Forest City School, will be held at 10.30 am on Friday, November 10, in the Chapel of St John Baptist, Forest City School, Snarebrook, London, E17. All friends, colleagues and former pupils are welcome.

University news

QUEEN'S COLLEGE
Cambridge
Cambridge University, Gerard Marrel Tanneke Watts, MA, PhD.

Birthdays today

Sir John Cassels, former Director-General, NEDDO; Mr William S. Churchill, MP; Mr Charles Davies, actor; 49; Miss Laura Davies, golfer; 32; Mr Ted Edgar, showjumper; 60; the Right Rev A.L.M. Haggart, former Bishop of Edinburgh; 80; Sir Peter Kemp, civil servant; 61; Lord Kinrory, 77; Professor J.B. Large, Professor of Applied Acoustics, Southampton University; 62; Mr Daniel Massey, actor; 62; Mr Nicholas Parsons, broadcaster; 67; Mr Harold Pinter, playwright; 65; Dr Brian Smith, Principal, University of Wales, Cardiff; 65; the Earl of Stockton; 52; Mr Chris Tarrant, broadcaster; 49; Mr Frank H. Taylor, former MP; 88; Mr Richard Thornton, Lord Lieutenant of



Harold Pinter, who is 65 today

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean-Antoine Watteau, painter, Valenciennes, France, 1684; Henry Cavendish, chemist and physicist, Nice, 1731; Benjamin West, President of the Royal Academy, 1768; Giuseppe Verdi, composer, Parma, Italy, 1813; Sir John Simon, pathologist and sanitary reformer, London, 1816; Paul Kruger, President of the South African Republic, 1825; Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, Lord Chief Justice 1913-21, Victoria of India 1921-26, London, 1869; Fridtjof Nansen, Arctic explorer, Haugesund, Norway, 1861; William Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield, Worcester, 1871; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Stampa, Switzerland, 1901.

DEATHS: Fra Filippo Lippi, painter, Spoleto, Italy, 1469; William Wilde, Dublin, 1900; 1972; Henry Brooke, novelist, Dublin, 1783; Francis Marie Charles Fourier, socialist writer, Paris, 1837; Edouard Daladier, Prime Minister of France 1933-34 and 1939-40, Paris, 1970; Willem de Kooning, abstract painter, New York, 1991.

DEATHS: A German bomber destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral, 1940. The Fiji Islands were proclaimed independent, 1970.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Air and Space Society, will launch the NAS/Deverport Trust fund-raising appeal for the new school at Robert Ogden's House, Sickingland, near Wetherby, North Yorkshire, at 12.10; and as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the Corporate Membership reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.

Princess Margaret will present the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award for outstanding service to ballet at the Royal Academy of Dancing, SW1, at 4.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a Concert for Innocent Victims in Westminster Abbey at 7.25 in aid of the Rosanna Hospital Appeal, Keston, Leicestershire.

The Duke of Kent will visit St David's Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, Castle Hill, Basing, Wiltshire, at 11; and will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.45 in aid of Canterbury Cathedral Education Centre.

The Duchess of Kent will visit St Bees Lifeboat Station, Cumbria, at 1.30; and will attend a reception given by the Penarth branch of the RNLI at Brackenbury, Caernarfon, at 2.30.

Princess Alexandra, as President of the Council of the British School at Rome, will attend a private view of the oil studies and drawings of Winifred Knights at the Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, at 6.30.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain D.J. Brambell, RE, and Miss E.M. Scarbrough. The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Dr and Mrs Michael Brambell, of Chester, and Emma, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Jack Scarbrough, of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr A.J. Hogarth and Miss A. Singh. The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Professor C.A. and Dr A. Hogarth, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Archana, daughter of Mr K.P. and Mrs S. Singh, of Manor Park, London.

Mr J.R.C. Merchant and Miss T.R. Scarlett. The engagement is announced between Jojo, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.R.C. Merchant, of Bury, Greater Manchester, and Teresa, elder daughter of Mrs Rita Scarlett, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr G.M. Pemberton and Miss A.W. Gibson. The engagement is announced between Giles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Pemberton, of Southwold, Suffolk, and Anna, daughter of Mr Michael Gibson, of Balsall Common, West Midlands, and Mrs J. Ashworth, of Middlesbrough.

Mr S. Smith and Miss L.F. Humphreys. The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs David Smith, of Southend, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Humphreys, of Hazel End, near Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire.

Mr L.H. Wilbraham and Mrs C.J.S. Fiske. The engagement is announced between Ian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Wilbraham, of Little Wymondley, Cambridgeshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Steyer, of Saratoga, Florida, USA.

Marriages

Mr P.J.D. Durrant and Miss M.J. Lammont. The marriage took place in Chelsea on Tuesday, October 3, 1995, of Mr Peter John Durrant, of 11 Seelwood Terrace, London, SW7, and Miss Judith Mary Lammont, of 11 Seelwood Terrace, London, SW7.

Mr P.J. Hughes and Miss J. Moore. The marriage took place on September 30 at St Winifred's, Sandbach, Cheshire, of Mr Paul Hughes and Miss Jane Moore.

Royal Navy entrants

The following candidates have been declared successful for entry to the Royal Navy and have entered Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth:

Naval College Entry
Midshipman (Medium Career Commission) Seaman
C.J. Gurn (Harrowell), Beacon Comm College.

Midshipman (Short Career Commission) Seaman
M. Corden, U/Y, Eddisbury S, North Kensington, W. Ham; M. J. Edwards, U/Y, Eddisbury S, North Kensington, W. Ham; M. J. Edwards, U/Y, Eddisbury S, North Kensington, W. Ham.

Direct Graduate Entry
Lieutenant (Short Career Commission) Seaman
N.C. Seaton, Purchaser Community, S. Farnham, Tertiary Coll, Univ of Reading.

Sub Lieutenant (Full Career Commission) Seaman
D.A. Davenny, Croyley Heath S, Univ of Leicester; L.C. Davies, Gwynedd, W. Ham; D. A. Davenny, Croyley Heath S, Univ of Leicester; L.C. Davies, Gwynedd, W. Ham.

Sub Lieutenant (Medium Career Commission) Seaman
B.R. Dicks, Holford Middle S, Wootton Upper S, Univ of Liverpool; C. J. Haddon, Royal GS, Univ of Plymouth; E. A. Stuart, Glasgow Acad, Cambridge Univ; D. E. James, Brentwood S, Oxford Brookes Univ; L. L. Thomson, Brechin HS, Glasgow Univ; D. E. Tully, Dalrymple Coll, Univ of Stirling; S. West, Waltham Toll Bar Camp S, Univ of Hertfordshire; G. W. G. Jagg, Buckenham HS, N. Ham; C. J. F. Duncanson, Coll of FE, Queen Mary Coll; D. J. Mason, Central Community Coll, Haywards Heath Sixth Form Coll, Plymouth Univ; R. A. Bernard.

University Cadetship Entry
Midshipman (Full Career Commission) Seaman
M. B. Penney, St David's S, Huddersfield New Coll; T. G. Griffiths, King John S, South Essex; J. J. Griffiths, King John S, South Essex; J. J. Griffiths, King John S, South Essex.

Midshipman (Full Career Commission) Seaman
J. M. Chubb, Holford Middle S, Southampton Univ; S. J. Dobbins, Holford Middle S, Southampton Univ; S. J. Dobbins, Holford Middle S, Southampton Univ.

Midshipman (Full Career Commission) Seaman
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
Notice is hereby given that the following persons have been appointed as liquidators of the following companies:

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Section 127(1) of the Companies Act 1985 provides that a company may be wound up by the court if it is unable to pay its debts.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

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OBITUARY

LORD HOME OF THE HIRSEL

Lord Home of the Hirsel, KT, PC, who as Sir Alec Douglas-Home was Prime Minister, 1963-64, and twice served as Foreign Secretary, 1960-63 and 1970-74, died yesterday aged 92. He was born on July 2, 1903.

Occupying No. 10 for a shorter time than any other Prime Minister this century, save for Bonar Law, Sir Alec Douglas-Home may well be remembered as the unlucky Prime Minister. He had the misfortune to come to the highest office after the Conservatives had been in Government for a dozen years, using up three previous Prime Ministers in the process. Not surprisingly, there was a widespread feeling that it was time for a change. On a more personal level, he had immediately to make the adjustment, which he did not find easy, from the quieter, more courteous atmosphere of the House of Lords to the bear-pit of the Commons — something which he had not experienced since his involuntary recruitment to the Upper House 12 years earlier.

More undermining than that, however, his selection as Prime Minister had been engineered by his predecessor. The role that Harold Macmillan played in October 1963 effectively destroyed the royal prerogative of the monarch choosing the nation's First Minister, at least from within a single party, and saw to it that Lord Home was the last Tory leader to emerge by what used to be known as "the customary processes of consultation".

Many Conservatives maintained that the party would have done better, would even have won the 1964 general election, under R. A. Butler's leadership. Certainly, that is what Home's opponent, Harold Wilson, believed — and, for that matter, the Liberal leader Jo Grimond too. Yet it should not be overlooked that in October 1963 Home took over a Government whose morale was shattered and whose standing in the opinion polls was abysmal. A year later Labour won the general election, with an overall majority of only four seats. That the new Prime Minister recovered so much ground in so short a time was in itself an achievement.

Home had two weaknesses as Prime Minister. He had no expertise in economic matters: indeed, he had joked in a newspaper interview, before any thought of the premiership occurred to him, that he did his sums with manchester (a confession Harold Wilson never allowed him to forget). He was also not at ease, and did not look his best, on television. As TV made an increasingly important part of his life, he had the misfortune to be a head that came across on the screen looking like a skull.

Throughout his career, though, he possessed the enviable gift of inspiring trust in those who served under him: it was Margaret Thatcher who in June this year called him "the best Prime Minister to work with that I have ever known". He may not have been the dominant intellect in his own administration. But he knew how to run a government. He could take without anguish the decisions that properly lie with a Prime Minister. He did not try, as other Prime Ministers have been known to do, to perform the work of his departmental ministers for them. He did not fuss. He had courage in the big things, and the judgment to know which things were big.

But his reputation does not rest solely, perhaps not even principally, upon his year-long period as Prime Minister. In his two spells as Foreign Secretary, on both occasions the other after his premiership, he displayed a firm grasp of large issues and a conspicuous independence of mind.

When he first became Foreign Secretary in July 1960 his appointment met a storm of disapproval unprecedented in postwar years. There was the obvious complaint that such a great office should not be held by one confined to the House of Lords — though Home himself always believed that it was positively easier for a peer to be Foreign Secretary. But there was another fear, not always expressed yet often deeply felt: that Macmillan was so determined to be his own Foreign Secretary that he wanted an ineffectual "yes-man" to be the nominal head of the Foreign Office. That this alarm proved to be totally unfounded — on African policy in particular Home was far to the right of Macmillan — had a good deal to do with the fact that the Foreign Secretary, somewhat surprisingly, emerged as the darling of the party conference.

But if Home was considered by many to be lucky to be chosen by his Prime Minister the first time he was made Foreign Secretary, his Prime Minister was thought to be the fortunate one on the second occasion that Home agreed to serve at the Foreign Office. After Home stood down as Conservative leader in July 1965 — of his own accord though after much sniping within the party and from Conservative newspapers — he acted with notable grace towards his successor. He was for almost five years Edward Heath's Shadow Foreign Secretary before returning to the Foreign Office in June 1970 where he remained throughout the Heath administration until March 1974.

He brought to the office once again his capacity for straight talking, for toughness towards the Soviet Union and for firmness (sometimes interpreted as a lack of sympathy) towards the countries of Africa and Asia. But he brought something else as well: an unusual degree of international respect. As a former Prime Minister, he naturally carried extra weight with other Foreign Ministers. His long experience of international affairs and the pungent clarity with which he would express his views mattered still more. But the reputation of a politician abroad is always enhanced when it is known that he commands influence at home. Home's generosity towards his successor established him in the hearts of Conservatives: he had put the cohesion and effectiveness of the party ahead of any personal considerations. It also won him a new popular respect as a different kind of politician. When he first became Prime Minister his social background had been a handicap. Harold Wilson had mocked

him as "the 14th Earl" (though Home got his own back by modestly murmuring on television: "I suppose Mr Wilson is really, when you come to think of it, the 14th Mr Wilson"). In any event, all this soon ceased to matter, and may even have become a positive advantage. Certainly, Home's unmistakable patrician air strengthened the impression of a disinterested detachment.

That impression was only half-true. No man without his due share of ambition becomes Prime Minister. Home was tougher than he looked. He had an air of diffident charm; but while the charm was genuine, and his manners were perfect, the diffidence was only superficial. The one thing he was not was an amateur who had strayed into politics with only half his mind on the game. For more than forty years he was a determined, full-time practitioner of the art.

But in the age of the career politician he represented an older strain. He stood within the Conservative Party for the inherited landed interest. Over and above the normal ambition of the regular politician, and the zest for party combat, he had an old-fashioned concept of public service which won the esteem not only of colleagues but of political opponents and a wider public as well.

Alexander Frederick Douglas-Home, Baron Home of the Hirsel, former 14th Earl of Home in the peerage of Scotland and Baron Douglas in the peerage of the United Kingdom, was born at 28 South Street, Mayfair, the eldest son of Lord Douglas of Home in 1918 became the 13th Earl of Home. He spent his childhood among a family of five brothers — one of whom was the playwright, William Douglas-Home — and two sisters at Coldstream in the Scottish Borders country, where he developed a love of country pursuits, particularly fishing and shooting, which he was never to lose.

At Eton, where Cyril Connolly famously recalled him as being "honourably ineligible for the struggles of life" he was one of those apparently effortlessly successful boys who combine popularity with more tangible achievements. He became president of Pop and played cricket for the XI, scoring 66 against Harrow at Lord's in 1922. At Oxford, where he was up at Christ Church, he got only a third in history but played for the university on a number of occasions, though without getting his Blue.

After coming down from university he played the occasional match for Middlesex, and in 1926 toured Argentina with the MCC under Sir Pelham "Phum" Warner, as an aggressive batsman and a more than useful seam bowler. In later life, even while a Cabinet minister, he was still going on tour with the Eton Ramblers whenever he could spare the time.

His political career began in 1922 when he stood unsuccessfully in the safe Labour constituency of Coatbridge in Lanarkshire. Two years later he was elected as Unionist MP for South Lanark, the constituency he was to represent for the next 14 years as Lord Douglas. (This was in the days when the Conservatives were known as the Unionist Party in Scotland.) Almost immediately he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, and in 1935 he was switched to be PPS to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Labour.

His first big step forward came the following year when Neville Chamberlain, then Chancellor of the Exchequer and due to become Prime Minister within a matter of months, chose Douglas as his PPS. He stayed with Chamberlain until the latter's retirement from office, went with him to the final meeting with Hitler in Munich and was an active supporter of the appeasement policy — a fact which, however unpopular in later years, he never attempted to obscure. While criticising Chamberlain for the naivety of his claim that the agreement with Hitler meant "peace for our time", Home maintained in later years that it had, nonetheless, brought a breathing space that was essential for Britain.

After Chamberlain's retirement he went on active service as a major with the Lanarkshire Yeomanry in which he had been commissioned in 1924. Soon, however, he fell ill with tuberculosis of the spine and after a delicate operation had to spend two years on his back in plaster.

It was not until 1943 that he was able to return to the House of Commons and subsequently attracted notice again with a vigorous attack on the Yalta Agreement. In May 1945 he was appointed Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Churchill's short-lived "caretaker" administration. He was defeated at the general election that summer and spent the next five years concentrating mostly on local and Scottish affairs. In 1950 he won back his seat in South Lanark, but the following year had to move up to the House of Lords on the death of his father.

In their campaign before the 1951 general election the Conservatives promised that, if elected, they would appoint another senior minister for Scotland. The purpose was to have someone of standing without ties in the Commons who could spend more of his time at St Andrew's House in Edinburgh than was possible for the Secretary of State with his parliamentary duties in London. It was a post for which Home was ideally suited and for the next four years he was Minister of State for Scotland.

With his political experience, his social prestige and his immense conscientiousness he made an outstanding success of the appointment. If he was not much in the English political limelight, he was enabled to confirm his standing with the Unionist Party in Scotland and to enhance his reputation within the Government for unostentatious efficiency.

When Anthony Eden succeeded to the premiership in April 1955 Home became Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. The five years that he was in this post — for some of the time combining the duties with those of Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords — were eventful ones. They saw the Suez crisis, the turbulent events in Central



Africa, Harold Macmillan's declaration of the "wind of change" — all with direct bearing upon Commonwealth relationships.

Yet at the end of it all Home remained to the general public a shadowy figure, whose personality had made little impact. He proved himself a competent administrator, conscientious in his travels, an able negotiator and a shrewd chairman. But he did not seem to be an initiator of policy — partly, no doubt, because of policy anyway he stood for the old Walpolean principle of *tranquilla non movere*. By comparison with the Colonial Secretary, Iain Macleod, with whom he never got on, he was, in the newspaper reader's eyes, "sound" but also considerably less exciting.

It was largely because he had not at that stage developed a greater public identity that his selection as Foreign Secretary in 1960 was so controversial. But once he was in that post he created quite a different impression upon his countrymen. On numerous occasions, in this country and overseas, he spoke of the need for a firm and realistic attitude towards the Soviet Union. This impression of him as the apostle of toughness was strengthened by his warnings to the United Nations on the dangers of double standards, applying one set to the Western democracies and another less demanding set to the Soviet Union. In the Cuban crisis he showed that his strength of purpose was not confined to his rhetoric — and it is probable that he was less alarmed by Kennedy's policy than Macmillan is now known to have been. Yet in his negotiations on the future of Berlin and disarmament he demonstrated his capacity for a certain diplomatic flexibility.

On the most critical foreign policy initiative of those years — the application to join the European Economic Community — Home's role was limited to that of the loyal team player. Macmillan led the way in taking the decision of principle, and the detailed negotiations were the

responsibility of Edward Heath, the second Foreign Office Cabinet minister who was also the principal spokesman on foreign affairs in the Commons. It was a tribute to Home's lack of personal vanity that this division of labour worked as well as it did.

By this time the early disapproval of Home's appointment had melted away. But when Macmillan was forced by ill health to get Home to read a letter intimating his intention to resign to the Conservative Party conference at Blackpool on October 10, 1963, it seemed at first that there were just three possible successors: Butler, Lord Hailsham and Reginald Maudling.

The outgoing Prime Minister initially preferred Lord Hailsham, who also had much support in the party in recognition of his brilliant success as Conservative chairman in the run-up to the 1959 election. But the excitable manner in which he threw his hat into the ring, by declaring at a fringe meeting that he would be disclaiming his peerage, made many people question his judgment. The Tory Right strongly resisted the choice of Butler, and Macmillan, for reasons that remain obscure, clearly believed that he was not the man to be Prime Minister. Maudling was considered too young — and by some too *louché* — to command sufficient approval, so thoughts began to turn towards Home.

Both in his speech as Foreign Secretary and in his role as president of the National Union, in which capacity he took the chair at the final rally addressed by Butler, Home impressed the conference. After the frenzied atmosphere at Blackpool there was an understandable appeal in a possible successor whose instinctive dignity was beyond question.

Nevertheless, a good deal of confusion was created by the way in which Macmillan insisted on combining the roles of kingmaker and judge. He was determined to see to it that the Conservatives got the leader he wanted while simultaneously conducting the process of

consultation designed to establish whom the party wanted. It was on the basis of these consultations — with Cabinet ministers, MPs, peers and constituency activists — that he advised the Queen and handed her a memorandum when she came to visit him in the King Edward VII Hospital, where he was recuperating after his prostate operation.

There were accusations that in his second role he was not being as impartial as he should have been, and some resentment was created that the party was having a choice foisted upon it. At the eleventh hour, in an attempt to stop Home, the other two main contenders agreed to unite behind Butler.

It was because of these manoeuvres and uncertainties that Home, whose nerve almost entirely failed him early on the Friday morning, at first did not accept the Queen's commission but informed her only that he would see if he could form a government. Had the other contenders, especially Butler, declined to serve under him it is unlikely that he could, or would, have tried to go ahead. But they all eventually agreed to come in and on the next day — Saturday, October 19 — the 14th Earl of Home became the first peer to be Prime Minister since the days of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury at the beginning of the century.

Macmillan and his friends always maintained that Home was unquestionably the choice of the party. But the episode left behind a residue of bitterness — and for an understandable reason. When the question of the succession was first discussed by the Cabinet on the eve of the party conference (Macmillan having withdrawn in some physical distress) Home had put himself forward, alongside the Lord Chancellor, Lord Dilhorne, as one of the two colleagues who could be consulted freely by the others as they were not themselves candidates. Both Enoch Powell and Iain Macleod saw this as a commitment from which Home should have sought to be released before agreeing to be a candidate, and refused to serve under him.

Damaging as this accusation was, there could have been a misunderstanding on the point. It was, after all, only through a constitutional nicety, provoked by Tony Benn, that it was possible for Home to be eligible at all. To have a Prime Minister in the Lords would, following the Curzon precedent of 40 years earlier, have been out of the question. But, as a result of Benn's determined campaign not to be deposited against his will in the Upper House, the Peerage Act had come into law in August 1963 permitting future peers to renounce within a month of inheritance. More to the point, so far as Home was concerned, those who were peers already were given 12 months to decide if they wished to elect for commoner status.

Ruling himself out of the succession, before Macmillan's impending departure became known, thus could still have been the reflex action of a hereditary peer not yet fully adjusted to the new opportunity that confronted him (though, interestingly, it is now known that a month earlier Home had received a letter from Martin Redmayne, the Government Chief Whip, asking him to hold himself in readiness should Macmillan fall). Equally revealingly, Home always kept among his papers a *New Statesman* article of the previous December pointing out that the renunciation option would conveniently become open to him in 1963 if a Peerage Bill went through along the lines the select committee had proposed. Fortunately for him, and thanks to the Lords rather than the Commons, it had done exactly that by August 1963 — and, from his point of view, the succession crisis could hardly have been better timed. If it had come three months earlier — or nine months later — neither he nor Lord Hailsham could have returned to the Commons without special enabling legislation.

Macleod subsequently wrote a famous article in *The Spectator*, of which he had become Editor, alleging that the choice had been made by a small social elite within the party. It was a damaging, divisive charge which convinced Home that no succeeding Conservative leader should ever be put in the position where

his claim to office was questioned by his own party.

So, after the narrow Conservative defeat in the 1964 general election, Home took the initiative in providing a system for electing future leaders by all Conservative MPs after consultation with the party at large. The system, though its details were modified later, was first put into effect (in the election in which Heath defeated both Maudling and Powell) after Home announced in July 1965 that he was resigning the leadership.

There was no necessity for him to do so. There were, it is true, campaigns within the party to dislodge him on the ground that the Conservatives needed a more modern-looking leader to suit the mood of the 1960s if they were to regain power swiftly. But Home could have resisted had he chosen to do so. He did not — perhaps partly from weariness, partly from distaste, but also from conviction. He believed that a new leader was required to unite the party.

There then began what may be regarded in many respects as the climax of his career. He was the elder statesman, once more in charge of foreign affairs for the Conservatives, but more honoured than ever before. He had a claim now upon the affections of his party and the country which no office could bestow.

His second spell as Foreign Secretary was from 1970 to 1974. He became the first British Foreign Secretary to visit China since Palmerston. He attempted to negotiate a Rhodesian settlement, which might have avoided guerrilla warfare in that country, though it came to nothing when a commission under the chairmanship of Lord Pearce found that it was unacceptable to African opinion. Perhaps, though, the most characteristic episode of this second stewardship was the expulsion of 105 named individuals from the Soviet Embassy for spying: a firm and typical action taken with deliberation.

But Home played once again a relatively small part in connection with Britain's renewed application to join the European Community. This time the initiative was successful, and the members of the Government certainly regarded it as the most important foreign policy decision — perhaps as the most historic decision of all — during their term of office. But, as in the early 1960s, the main thrust came from the Prime Minister, in this case Edward Heath, and the detailed negotiation was left to one of Home's colleagues, on this occasion Geoffrey Rippon.

It would have been too much for a busy Foreign Secretary to have become embroiled in such a consuming negotiation. But it was always true that Home was less happy with detail than with determining the general direction of policy. His weaknesses as well as his strengths were evident in his attitude towards Scottish devolution down the years. As a Scotsman who sat for a Scottish constituency and whose home was in Scotland, he was peculiarly well placed to sense the mood of the Scottish people. He judged that some greater decentralisation of power from Westminster to Edinburgh was needed.

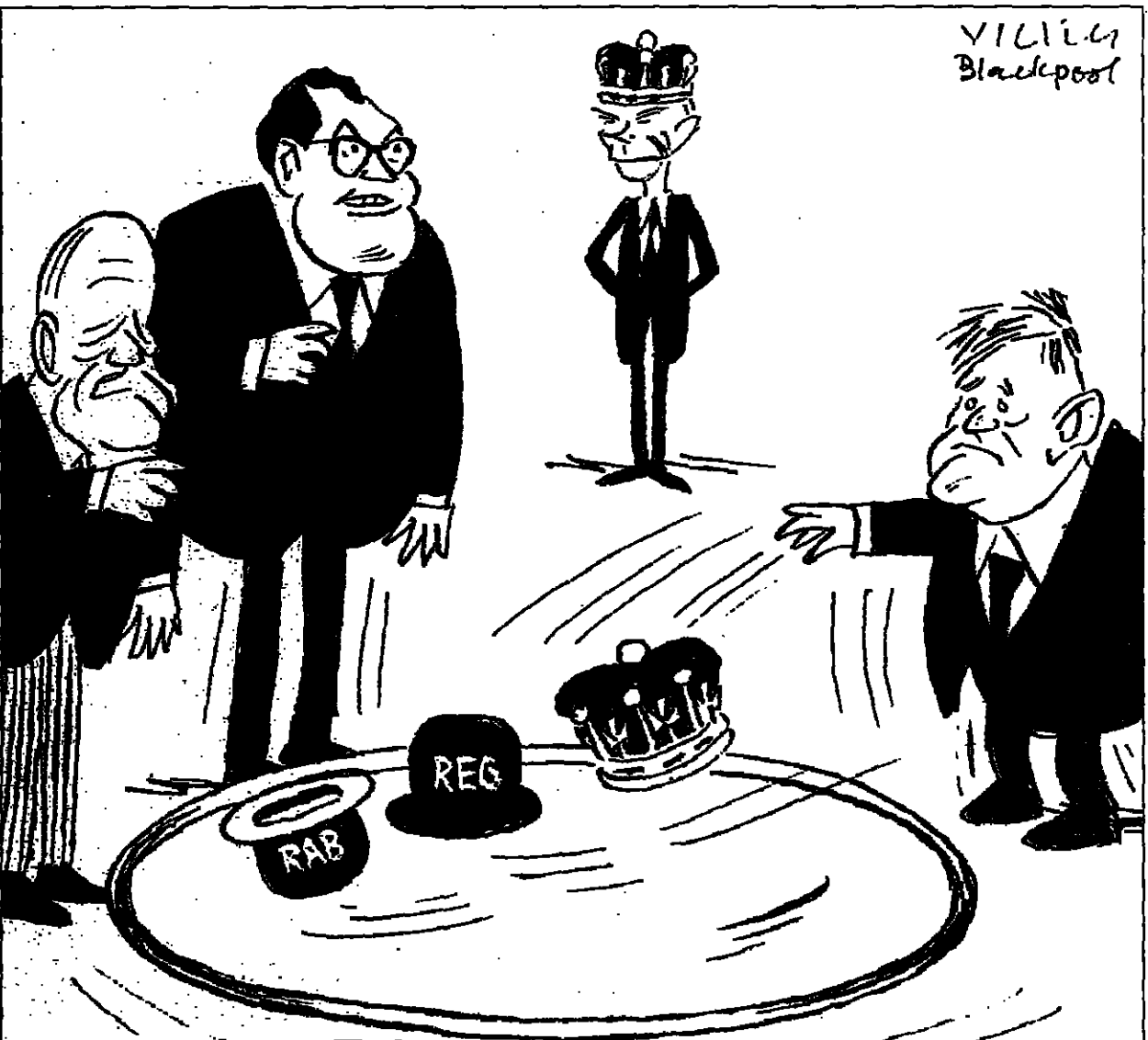
This made him a supporter in principle of a measure of parliamentary devolution within the United Kingdom. But his attempts to put that principle into practice were never happy. In 1968 Home made what became known as his "Declaration of Perth" in which he called for an elected Scottish assembly. Home was then invited to chair a committee of distinguished men and women to put flesh on the bones of this proposal. The committee suggested that there should be a directly elected Scottish Convention in Edinburgh that would take the second reading, committee and report stages of those Scottish Bills referred to it by Parliament. No solutions were provided to the problems that would occur if the majority in the House of Commons were of a different political persuasion from the majority in the convention. Subsequently Home supported the Labour Government's devolution proposals, but then retracted, saying that a future Conservative government would offer a better scheme — which it never did. It was not an impressive episode in his career but it was a small cloud in a large sky.

After the defeat of the Heath Government in the February 1974 election Home announced his retirement from the Conservative front bench and he did not stand for the House of Commons again in the second (October) election of that year. On becoming Prime Minister in 1963 he had disclaimed his peerages, taken the title of Sir Alec Douglas-Home and stood for election in the by-election that was pending in Kinross and West Perthshire. He won the seat with a substantially increased majority and held it comfortably until his retirement from the Commons.

A life peerage, as Lord Home of the Hirsel, was then conferred upon him. Although his active political life was over, he continued to make characteristically trenchant contributions to public debate, especially on international affairs, in the House of Lords and elsewhere. In 1976 he published his autobiography, *The Way The Wind Blows* (which Rab Butler dismissed as "a book about fishing"). His other publications included *Border Reflections* (1979) and *Letters to a Grandson* (1983).

Home was sworn of the Privy Council in 1951 and was created a Knight of the Thistle in 1962. He became Chancellor of the Order in 1973, only retiring from the office in 1992 after suffering a stroke. From 1966 until 1977 he served as the first Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, in 1966-67 he was president of the MCC, and in his later years many other honours were bestowed upon him.

In 1936 he married Elizabeth Hester, daughter of the Very Rev Cyril Alington, sometime Dean of Durham and Head Master of Eton. She died in 1990. They had one son and three daughters. The earldom, which Home had renounced for his lifetime, now passes to his son, David Alexander Cospatrik Douglas-Home, chairman of Morgan Grenfell International, who in 1963 discontinued the use of his courtesy title of Lord Dunglass.



Vicky's celebrated 1963 cartoon: contenders for the leadership of the Conservative Party

Newcastle's Gillespie leads the way as the players' ITF teams come under the spotlight

Players show feet of clay despite inside knowledge

In any football stadium there are more than enough managers to go around. Everyone has their own opinion on how best to run the team. In fact, the general view is that the only man who has not the slightest idea what he is doing is the real manager himself.

So, with Interactive Team Football (ITF) comes the chance for everyone to put their football knowledge on the line and show the professionals how it should be done. Some have more knowledge than others and you would imagine that the players would have more than most, but when it comes to picking ITF teams, they are as fallible as the rest of us.

The Premiership players who have entered ITF play by slightly different rules. They are not allowed to pick anyone from their own club but are obliged to select their club manager. That apart, they are free to do whatever they wish within the £35 million budget.

Leading the list of prospective managers who have been featured in *The Times* is Keith Gillespie of Newcastle. His ITF team was given a flying start by the performance of Kevin Keegan in the dugout - as the Toon Army have marched to the top of the Premiership so Keegan has notched up 20 points.

Apart from losing eight points through Sheffield Wednesday's Pressman in goal (-6) and Bardsley (-2), the Queens Park Rangers full back, and scoring nothing by selecting Jackson of Everton, the rest of Gillespie's team has been consistent rather than prolific. Between them, Gillespie's forward partnership of Dennis Bergkamp and Mark Hughes has scored only 23 points, one less than Tony Yeboah, the Leeds United striker, has managed alone. No matter, Gillespie still leads the list of players with 84 points.

Close on his heels is Simon Barker of QPR. He was the only man to select Yeboah at £7.5 million and has reaped



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



the reward, with a team total of 83 points. The backbone of his success comes from Middlesbrough and Liverpool in the shape of Cox and Barnes, who between them cost a mere £4 million and have scored 14 points each.

Value for money is obviously of great importance in the ITF because of its rigid budget, but finding a sure thing in football is decidedly difficult at the best of times.

Bolton's David Lee must have thought he had his money's worth when spending £15 million on Tim Flowers



Chris Sutton of Blackburn props up the players' ITF list

and Alan Shearer. But while Shearer racked up 22 points, Flowers conceded the same.

The dubious honour of being bottom of the players' list goes to Chris Sutton of Blackburn. His theory was simple: build a miserly defence and a good scoring partnership and let the midfield look after itself. The theory, however, has not worked out in practice. His defence has leaked eight points - with only David Unsworth managing to score anything at all - and his strikers, Le Tissier and Rösler, have scored only 17 points between them.

The lion's share of Sutton's meagre 47 points have come from the midfield of Impey, Keane, Draper and Burley, who have amassed 36 points. They were the players who were only supposed to be making up the numbers. So much for theories.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You may change up to two players each week, but note that each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before buying one. Remember to replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie. a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership, or to select any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League player who moves into the Premiership.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (ITMF) telephone, (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call 0891 333 331 during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals from the same club.

All queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016.



Keith Gillespie, in the thick of the title race with Newcastle, has used his knowledge of opponents to select the players' leading ITF team.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Keeps goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Keeps goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Keeps goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
1 must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631.

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (ITMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your Touch-tone selector's PIN which must be taped to and not spoken. Follow the steps below to make a transfer.

The line is open from 9am on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday from 10pm on Sunday to 11pm on Sunday and from 9pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are no direct transfers, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 9pm.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer, he then ceases to score for you.

Player in: _____ Club: _____

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN
There are no transfers into the ITF game this week.
OUT
There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week.

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kewin Kickers	(K Jones)	163
2	Burnell United	(R Barnham)	162
3	Nigels Right Foot	(M D Patel)	159
4	Twilight United	(P C Doherty)	156
5	Psychic TV	(T Vardy)	156
6	The Subjuggators	(M P Ayres)	154
7	Triple Peppers	(J B Portwood)	153
8	Jessica Darlings 4	(M A Nadiem)	153
9	Goths Gods 65	(M B Gohil)	153
10	Not Got A Chance	(M Clark)	152
11	Supervillains	(R Hassell)	151
12	The Cutting Edge	(M A Weston)	151
13	Mean Machine	(R D Farmer)	150
14	The Crusier Eleven	(A Stroud)	149
15	Basasits Bouncers	(J Hurd)	149
16	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	149
17	Waters Wanderers	(Waters Wanderers)	148
18	The Conjurors	(M D Farmer)	148
19	Loxton's Longshots	(C London)	148
20	Born in Tashkent	(M D McMahon)	148
21	No Defence OK	(J B Portwood)	148
22	Finnharpes Return	(P Hanna)	147
23	Dreamer Fifth	(K Devlin)	147
24	Tommy Cockles 30	(M G Wesson)	147
25	Phyco And Smith	(M P Johnson)	147
26	Severn Legal	(M Moore)	146
27	James Boys Six	(M Jones)	146
28	Ashford Borough	(M W Donoghue)	146
29	KBT UTD	(R Patterson)	146
30	Dirty Booters	(G Fallowfield)	145
31	The Butler	(S Umerjee)	145
32	Holte End Heroes	(Mrs S Casley)	145
33	Whitby Wanderers	(S D Whalley)	145
34	P S V Betanis	(L A McCole)	145
35	Miffies Pathetic	(Mrs JA Grainger)	145
36	Cara's Hotshots	(C Carmese)	145
37	Mighty Men 1	(C Marshall)	144
38	Marta Mates 20	(Mr M Hilt)	144
39	Andy's Athletic	(AR Howe)	144
40	Chach Association	(A Bahadur)	144
41	My Cat Bailey	(M P Johnson)	144
42	Annette's Answers	(A Smith)	144
43	P S D Eleven	(P Doherty)	144
44	Midfield Knights	(R Jenkins)	144
45	Forgive Fury	(P Simpson)	144
46	Staves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	143
47	Oh Nicky Evans	(Mr P Johnson)	143
48	Becky's Babes	(DJ Ready)	143
49	HOPE FC	(M Betts)	142
50	A TEAM	(A James)	142
51	Glow In The Dark	(J Smith)	142
52	The Premier Raiders 1	(Miss C Ellis)	142
53	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	142
54	Than United	(N Giddings)	142
55	Edprope United	(R Edmondson)	142
56	Warbrook Miffis	(C Lang)	142
57	Disaster Area	(S Pottage)	142
58	Jonathans Jems	(J Lodge)	142
59	Shrimpy	(D Collier)	142
60	OHME	(M Mathewson)	141
61	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	141
62	Ramsay Rovers	(P Hill)	141
63	The Black Knights	(RA Green)	141
64	Shirley Villagers	(M Sack)	141
65	Powdermill Pupils	(J Plesier)	141
66	Tekidettes Two	(J Brown)	141
67	Rovers FC	(D Summerhill)	140
68	Moorside Farm	(G Dallimore)	140



Teddy Sheringham is a key player in Kewin Kickers

69	Hiramis 1ST 11	(R Hiram)	140
70	Incosta	(B Daly)	140
71	L	(L Brown)	140
72	MAC United	(T McCluskey)	140
73	Effortless Achievers	(A West)	140
74	Dave's Dribblers	(D Hart)	140
75	Romans Rangers	(T Hodgkinson)	140
76	The Warblers	(K Anwar)	140
77	Goths Gods 34	(Mr R Gohil)	140
78	Robinson Town	(MA Barnes)	140
79	Al's Aces	(A Hancock)	140
80	Long Live The Queen	(L Wilson)	140
81	Sporting Siders	(K Doughty)	140
82	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	140
83	Robbedroftovers	(R Cook)	140
84	Fudge's Foulers	(J Abu Hejleh)	139
85	Stanley Lions	(A Boyd)	139
86	The Doug Hutchies	(M Stacey)	139
87	Inter Red Dragon	(D Williams)	139
88	Crystal Eagles	(Mr S Brock)	139
89	The Assassins	(M Tapper)	139
90	Jacquet For Shaw	(Mr D Shaw)	139
91	The Tommy Knockers	(K Angove)	139
92	Barnard Pie	(P Lovatt)	139
93	Wolves Of Fenric	(S Adamson)	139
94	Crete De La Prem	(Mr C Tesserias)	139
95	They're Here	(Mr P Johnson)	139
96	Lobby's Losers	(Mr P Johnson)	139
97	Mama Runus FC	(J Andrews)	139
98	The Evil Eyes	(D Collier)	139
99	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	139
100	Books Rovers	(S Rook)	139
101	Beifast Rangers	(Mr D Crowe)	139
102	Gary's Heroes	(G)	139
103	Dennis Dynamics 2	(H Francis)	139
104	Scud 4	(P HYMAS)	138
105	Gary Pearce	(G D Pearce)	138
106	Lynnas Live Up	(L Raxworthy)	138
107	Newsum	(P Garry)	138
108	Flethy City	(J Harrison)	138
109	Special Mode	(S Newman)	138

105	Barnes FC	(Mr P Johnson)	138
106	Lea's Utd	(N Laine)	138
107	Newcastle Browns 2	(S MacLennan)	138
108	Champions 1995-96	(S Mc Gill)	138
109	Richard's Raiders	(R Leach)	138
110	ACE FC	(M R Nightingale)	138
111	Zinc Alloys	(D Rooney)	137
112	Mr Acoustic	(Mr Acoustic)	137
113	Tunde United	(Dr T Adeniji)	137
114	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	137
115	Woodside Boys	(L Albin)	137
116	Gregs Eleven	(G Coward)	137
117	Map 6	(M Priestley)	137
118	Shep's Super Squad	(T Shepherd)	137
119	The Bacon Silbers	(Mr Kirkwood)	137
120	Burnley Bounce Back	(L McNally)	137
121	Happy Wanderers	(Mr T Naughton)	137
122	Elm Park Aphids	(Mr JMS Petty)	137
123	Petersons	(J Peterson)	137
124	Rumys Rovers	(M Briggs)	137
125	The Bacon Silbers	(G Cox)	137
126	AC Avengers	(A Coulter)	137
127	Murphy's Law	(C Wright)	137
128	Vip Man Rovers	(M Gerner)	137
129	Charaynys	(P Robson)	137
130	MGM	(M Morgan)	137
131	McKendricks	(C Stevenson)	137
132	Ards FC	(S McCannell)	137
133	Portrush Rovers	(W J Harris)	137
134	Eaton Forgers	(M Davison)	137
135	Willington United	(W Liu)	137
136	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	137
137	Treacle Heroes	(S Hazde)	137
138	Zappas Allstars	(Mr S Williams)	137
139	Unlikely Lads	(G Cox)	137
140	Black Angels	(Mr DJ Horstaby)	137
141	Buster The Dog	(S Hill)	137
142	Geordie Jackpot	(P Nesbitt)	137
143	Freedom XI	(P Menzie)	137
144	The X Men	(M Walker)	137
145	Partizan Beograd I	(Mr D Stojkovic)	137
146	Dylanmyr Mail	(J Nichol)	137
147	Map 5	(DR Owen)	137
148	Beard Utd	(M Priestley)	137
149	Fair Fair Flapstar	(N Colles)	137
150	Road Athletics	(Mrs G Keynes)	137
151	Beardsleys Hair	(Mr P Johnson)	137
152	Statant Orient	(J Clay)	137
153	Robbie's Rovers	(R Dick)	137
154	Oh There It Is	(P Jones)	137
155	Razor's Raiders	(RA Knowles)	137
156	Roker Rovers	(D Milbourn)	137
157	TLT Utd	(PM Lucas)	137
158	Shrew Voles	(H Bashley)	137
159	Martini 5	(T Martin)	137
160	Fingers Crossed	(CH Poppleton)	137
161	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	137
162	Goodies 3RDS	(J Goodman)	137
163	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	137
164	Nookies Bears	(S Cozens)	137
165	Nanon	(G Bahdejean)	137
166	STFC	(P Styly)	137
167	Woodlands Park	(C Austin)	137
168	Warrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	137
169	Maggie's Marvels	(M Wales)	137
170	Hotpots	(A Cornick)	137
171	Las Gagnants	(P Crosby)	137
172	Nayan From Halfway	(K Bowman)	137
173		(Mr J Langton)	137

168	Porn Stars 3	(D Jones)	136
169	Papa 'New Guinea'	(G Hudson)	136
170	Be Seeing You	(Mr P Johnson)	136
171	Henry Hilda	(Mr T Thompson)	136
172	Mark Wanderers	(S Islam)	136
173	Ches Turnips	(Mr N Hemming)	136
174	The Reservoir Dogs	(S Peck)	136
175	Roy's Rangers	(M Evans)	136
176	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	136
177	The Jiddies	(AJ Adams)	136
178	Petrol Rovers	(K Felton)	136
179	Dwayne Dribblers	(AJ Philcox)	136
180	Donkey And Co	(T Robson)	136
181	Donkey's Dream	(R Matthews)	136
182	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	136
183	Garlic Bread	(D Collier)	136
184	Petes Collector	(Mr B Modi)	136
185	Marthots 4	(T Martin)	136
186	Mexx Marysels	(Max Watson)	136
187	Blackpeas	(W Gayle)	136
188	Brown Ale Bombers	(S McTaggart)	136
189	Sky Interactiro	(J T Smith)	136
190	Brandside Utd	(Mr M Strickland)	136
191	The Red Hot XI	(M Furniss)	136
192	Harvoc FC	(M Volkes)	136
193	Burnham Green 'E	(Mr DS Chapman)	136
194	Thy's Blue Nooses	(Mr S Tye)	136
195	Vann Diagram Ltd	(R Cassatelli)	136
196	Ben Roobers	(SJ Bennett)	136
197	Some Hope Utd	(A Burnett)	136
198	Goats Please	(A Gooch)	136
199	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	136
200	Shazron's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	136
201	The Tassan Cometh	(Mr P Ashoka)	136
202	Superstition FC	(M Smith)	136
203	Plymouth Panthers	(G Ruffin)	136
204	Al-Joul Fox	(Mr J Reader)	136
205	Dream On 2	(A Close)	136
206	Papadopoulos City	(A Papadopoulos)	136
207	Waiting Warriors	(P Shanks)	136
208	Fantasy Flops?	(I Nield)	136
209	Rollands Rets	(W Casker)	136
210	WFS United	(M Hyland)	136
211	Raying Roosters	(T Hall)	136
212	IFK Basingstoke	(J Gage)	136
213	Sharpey's Superstares	(Mr A Sharples)	136
214	Egan's Genn's	(E Bennett)	136
215	Scratchniz	(P Long)	136
216	Eleven Eleven	(S Mulbridge)	136
217	Mutters	(S Mitchell)	136
218	Partisians	(E Donale)	136
219	Buckley City	(Mr H Buckley)	136
220	Markham	(M Simmonds)	136
221	Norwocastians	(E Donale)	136
222		(J O'Kenny)	136
223		(E Scott)	136
224	Redcote	(G Thompson)	136
225	Real Hangovers	(Tim Thomas)	136
226	The Dream of 67	(P Lewis)	136
227	MCFC	(M Close)	136
228	Slaves Lions 2	(S Brewer)	136
229	Slaves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	136
230	Weldon Wanderers FC	(S Lee)	136
231	Golof Great Gens	(M Kosta)	136
232	The Rialto Storm	(Mr DJ Homabay)	136
233	I Need Another \$10m	(R Woolley)	136
234	Reusch Hopfists	(R Ford)	136
235	Blacky Desperado	(G Jackson)	136
236	Bay House Reserves	(G Pines)	136
237	The Spacelate	(J Mayel)	136

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0.22
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0.21
10201	P Schmechel	Manchester United	5.00	0.25
10301	M Croxall	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0.20
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0.20
10401	D James	Sheff Wed	3.50	0.18
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0.18
10501	J Lullie	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0.22
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.25	0.20
10601	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	0.20
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0.20
10603	S Hlop	Newcastle United	3.00	0.12
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0.14
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0.10
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0.07
10802	S Dylakos	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0.00
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0.01
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0.00
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0.00
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0.18
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0.00
11002	D Bessant	Southampton	0.75	0.00
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0.19
11102	K Mitchell	Chelsea	1.00	0.00
11201	D Schranz	Arsenal	5.00	0.14
11202	V Barcham	Arsenal	0.50	0.00
11301	K Pressman	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.00
11302	C Woods	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.00
11401	L Mikkelsen	West Ham United	2.50	0.11
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0.00
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0.08
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0.00
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0.00
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0.00
11603	J Flan	Coventry City	1.50	0.22
11701	A Cotton	Manchester City	2.50	0.00
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0.00
11703	E Immet	Manchester City	2.00	0.18
11801	M Boenich	Aston Villa	2.50	0.14
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0.00
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0.03
11902	G Welsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	0.13
12001	K Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0.28
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0.00

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val
20101	H Bang	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0.05
20102	G Le Saup	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0.03
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0.00
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	0.00
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0.08
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0.05
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	0.01
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0.09
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0.08
20303	A-H Haslam	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0.00
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0.11
20402	S-H Bjornbye	Liverpool	3.00	0.00
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0.11
20501	A Dorog	Leeds United	8.50	0.08
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0.08
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0.03
20504	K Shep	Leeds United	0.50	0.00
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	0.18
20602	M Hoggins	Newcastle United	3.00	0.00
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0.16
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0.00
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0.00
20703	S Carrigan	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0.00
20704	D Karvelas	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0.00
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0.00
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0.02
20802	R Brown	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0.00
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0.00
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	0.00
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0.07
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	0.02
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0.00
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0.12
21002	F Bernat	Southampton	1.00	0.11
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0.14
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0.07
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0.03
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0.00
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0.11
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0.12
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	1.50	0.14
21203	S Morris	Arsenal	2.50	0.11
21301	J Petrusic	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.04
21302	J Nolin	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.04
21303	P Altherton	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.01
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0.02
21402	T Brooker	West Ham United	3.00	0.02
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0.00
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0.03
21501	G Abbot	Everton	2.50	0.06
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0.04
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0.00
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0.02
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0.00
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0.04
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0.00
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0.07
21701	T Phelan	Manchester City	1.50	0.07
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	0.75	0.08
21703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0.05
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0.05
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0.16
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0.04
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0.15
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0.00
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0.00
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0.00
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	0.14
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0.11
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0.00
22001	G Burgess	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0.10
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0.10
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0.02
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0.02
22005	M McNeale	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0.00

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0.02
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0.01
30103	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0.00
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0.00
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0.03
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0.00
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0.06
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0.03
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0.00
30303	C Tiler	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0.10
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0.09
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	0.01
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	0.00
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	0.09
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0.11
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	0.17
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	0.07
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0.01
30504	D O'Leary	Leeds United	0.50	0.00
30505	P Beasley	Leeds United	1.00	0.01
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	0.00
30602	S Rowley	Newcastle United	3.00	0.16
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0.00
30701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0.03
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0.00
30703	S Nicholls	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0.01
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0.00



Lee Dixon is confident that once Shearer regains form the One Niners will rise up the ITF standings

Hignett a bargain buy

I called my team the "One Niners" after the song that our supporters sing, but that is not say that I do not expect them to score goals. When you sit down to work out your Interactive Team Football (ITF) team, you are trying to remember how the scoring system works, how much money you have got, what positions are likely to score you most points - it can get confusing when you are trying to balance it all up.

So far, my team has collected 65 points, which puts me mid-table against the other players. I am not too happy with that as a position, but it does mean that there are players below me. Once Alan Shearer starts scoring, though, we will be up at the top. I want for Shearer because he is a proven goalscorer, although I think that I would be doing better if I had picked him this time last year. I am not too worried, though; I still think that he will come good.

I decided to buy Kevin Campbell because I thought his move to Nottingham Forest would give him a new lease of life. He has had a few injury problems and so far he has not done what I had hoped. He needs time to settle into his new club, but I am sure that he will. He is an old team-mate of mine so I may have to give him a call and sort him out to get him scoring again.

When I picked the team, the midfield

Lee Dixon, of Arsenal, says patience with his forwards should earn rewards in ITF

seemed to be the cheapest way of scoring points. My best buy is Craig Hignett, of Middlesbrough, at £1 million. I always thought that he was a good player and now that he has got Nicky Barraby up there, that has really opened him up.

Middlesbrough are playing with a lot of confidence, they pass the ball around, create lots of chances and Hignett is a good finisher, and he has earned me a lot of points.

Everton are a team that do not

normally let in too many, which is why I picked Neville Southall in goal. When we played them, though, we put two past them and they did not look that good, while we played very well. They are a funny team, though, so who knows what they will do.

I thought that under Joe Royle they would have made a good start this season, but they have struggled a bit. So far, I have not thought about transfers, although, if my strikers do not back up their ideas, I may be in touch with them! However, I want a steady team, with no chopping and changing, so I will wait for a while until I start thinking about new players. Being mid-table is no use to me, I have to be up there amongst the medals, but I have every confidence that, come Christmas, when there are lots of matches, we will zoom up that league table.

I am not sure that I am cut out to be a manager once I have stopped playing; only experience will tell on that. I love the game and being a part of it every day, though, so I want to stay in it as long as I can. Nothing beats playing, but, if you cannot have that, then I suppose that being a coach is the next best thing; we will have to see. If the One Niners keep dropping points like they are at the moment, though, I may not get the choice.

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0.11
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0.14
40404	P Stewart	Liverpool	1.50	0.00
40405	M Walters	Liverpool	1.50	0.00
40406	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0.00
40407	N Clough	Liverpool	1.50	0.00
40408	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0.00
40409	J Molloy	Liverpool	1.50	0.00
40410	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0.03
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	0.11
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	0.15
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0.05
40504	D White	Leeds United	1.50	0.05
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0.00
40506	M Tindler	Leeds United	0.50	0.02
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	0.19
40602	R Fox	Newcastle United	6.00	0.08
40603	D Gillett	Newcastle United	4.50	0.12
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0.12
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0.12
40606	S Sellers	Newcastle United	2.50	0.02
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0.00
40608	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0.00
40701	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0.03
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0.08
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0.04
40704	D Caskey	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0.00
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0.04
40706	I Dumitrescu	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0.03
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0.11
40802	J Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0.08
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0.10
40804	S Hodge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0.00
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	0.10
40806	S Osborne	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0.05
40807	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0.00
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0.03
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	0.16
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	0.05
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	0.10
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0.00
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0.03
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	0.12
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0.10
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	0.01
41004	H Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0.01
41005	T Widdington	Southampton	1.00	0.11
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	0.12
41102	R Gullit	Chelsea	4.00	0.13
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0.09
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0.00
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0.04
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	0.03
41107	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0.04
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	0.03
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0.12
41203	R Parfitt	Arsenal	2.00	0.08
41204	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0.00
41205	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0.00
41206	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0.04
41207	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0.10
41301	J Sheridan	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.07
41302	A Sinton	Sheff Wed	2.00	0.00
41303	C Waddle	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.06
41304	G Hyde	Sheff Wed	2.50	0.06
41305	K Ingheson	Sheff Wed	1.50	0.00
41306	R Jones	Sheff Wed	0.75	0.00
41307	M Williams	Sheff Wed	1.00	0.00
41308	L Briscoe	Sheff Wed	0.75	0.00
41309	M Pambridge	Sheff Wed	1.50	0.12
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0.11
41402	D Hutchison	West Ham United	5.00	0.15
41403	M Allen	West Ham United	2.00	0.04

40102	D Barry	Blackburn Rovers
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers
40108	L Makiel	Blackburn Rovers
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers
40201	R Gibbs	Manchester United
40202	R Keane	Manchester United
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United
40205	N Butt	Manchester United
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United
40207	S Davies	Manchester United
40301	L Bohinen	Nottingham Forest
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest
40306	S Gennill	Nottingham Forest
40307	K Elarak	Nottingham Forest
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool

NEWS

Major promises to slash spending

John Major braced Conservatives for a ruthless assault on spending, particularly on the £85 billion welfare budget, to make room for two tax-cutting budgets before the election.

The Prime Minister told party agents in Blackpool for the annual conference that the Government had to cut taxes — but to do so it would have to make hard choices. Pages 1, 9

Tributes to Lord Home

The Prime Minister led tributes to Lord Home of the Hirsel, who died yesterday aged 92. He described the former Conservative Prime Minister as an understated and often underestimated man who personified the quiet dignity of a Scottish gentleman. John Major said that Lord Home's wealth of knowledge, keen instinct and deep patriotism had combined in a lifetime of public service. Pages 1, 5

Jury trial move

Juries may be abolished in complex fraud trials following a review by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. There is growing support for the move because of the increasing length and complexity of such trials. Page 1

Bank merger fear

Lloyds Bank and TSB are to merge in a £5 billion deal that will create Britain's biggest High Street banking network. But the merger is likely to mean the loss of thousands of jobs. Pages 1, 2

RAF sacks gays

Three RAF officers and five airmen have been discharged from the service this year for being homosexual, the Ministry of Defence said. Page 2

Broadmoor order

A sex attacker who stabbed a young mother and suffocated her four-year-old daughter was ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor. Page 3

Tory defender

A Conservative council that has made more than 2,000 employees redundant had an unlikely champion at an industrial tribunal yesterday — Cherie Booth, QC, wife of the Labour leader. Page 4

Schools fail

Inspectors are to check every school in two London boroughs after one in three was found to be failing. Page 5

Fastest penslinger in the West

After being hand-wrought on 47,000 fly-leaves in America, the signature of General Colin L. Powell had been reduced to a scrawl by the time he arrived at Hatchards in London to inscribe copies of his autobiography. The general is the fastest penslinger in the west, capable of autographing 800 books an hour. In 40 minutes he managed 463. Page 1

West trial

Rosemary West thought that her future husband, Fred, was capable of anything, including murder, her mother told Winchester Crown Court. Page 6

Tobacco wars

A health minister clashed with a senior European Community official when he claimed that Europe was undermining anti-smoking measures. Page 11

Franc defended

The Bank of France acted for a second time to defend the franc against a fresh assault by currency speculators amid a climate of deepening economic uncertainty as the country prepared for a one-day strike. Page 12

Cold comfort

The shrinking market for coal may soon give Norway what it has never had: sole possession of Spitzbergen, the most northerly inhabited land. Page 13

Nato bombs Serbs

Nato planes bombed a Bosnian Serb command bunker near Tuzla with laser guided bombs after Serb forces launched a series of assaults on government targets. Pages 1, 14

Nunn to retire

The Democratic Party suffered a devastating blow when Georgia's Sam Nunn, ignoring appeals from President Clinton, announced his retirement. Page 15



Jasper, a police dog, sniffs his way along seats at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, before the start of the Conservative conference. Pages 1, 9

BUSINESS

Mining merger: RTZ Corporation and CRA, RTZ's 49 per cent-owned Australian offshoot, have agreed to combine their businesses. Page 25

Loosing touch: A new poll by the Institute of Managers suggests that more than half of Britain's managers think the Government is out of touch with business. Page 25

Clowes challenge: Peter Clowes, the disgraced financier jailed in 1992 after his Barlow Clowes empire collapsed owing investors about £190 million, has won the first round in his bid to be granted parole. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 16.2 to 3,510.3. Sterling dropped from 85.1 to 84.6. The pound rose from \$1.5813 to \$1.5848 and fell from DM2.2562 to DM2.2369. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby league: Denis Betts will captain England against Fiji because Shaun Edwards is not fully fit. Bobby Goulding will stand in at scrum half. Page 48

Football: Terry Venables, though the front-runner for the new post of England's technical director, says he has not considered whether he wants the job. Page 48

Motor racing: Damon Hill suffered a hairline fracture of the right leg when he crashed in the European Grand Prix but will take part in the remaining races. Page 48

Racing: Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board, is considering amalgamating races from different daily meetings to produce larger pools on the Tote. Page 45

New light: Now, at last, Paris has given us the chance to see Cézanne afresh. In the first full retrospective in decades, the painter is revealed as an artist utterly unlike the deity of legend. Page 34

Change of pace: Walter Mosley's first four novels have brought him fame as a crime writer in America. Now he's changing direction with a novel about the blues. Page 35

Cartoon on ice: It's an extravaganza of cuteness as Disney brings Aladdin to Wembley Arena, complete with ice skates. Page 35

Theatrical transfer: The masterpiece of German expressionist cinema comes to the stage as Barry Simmer adapts *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* for Nottingham. Page 36

Right to be wrong: Kate Muir defends an apparent change of heart by Naomi Wolf on a woman's right to an abortion. Page 16

Faith in fashion: Nigella Lawson says we are shocked by Elizabeth Hurley's rumoured conversion to Catholicism only because we expect the pious to be plain. Page 16

Spot on: Does a deprived childhood affect adult health? Anjana Ahuja on the follow-up to the landmark Red Spot study. Page 17

Health lessons: Poorly educated women are more likely to go into hospital with menstrual disorders than those with degrees, says Dr Thomas Sutcliffe. Page 17

Bad ways: How shoddy firms and a ponderous complaints system can ruin clients and force many to act for themselves. Page 37

Alan Howarth has deserted the only field upon which he could have had any influence and joined one where he will have none. He has damaged that wing of the Tory Party he professes to support and done great favours to those he both fears and despises. — *Evening Standard*

President Clinton was right to ease travel and other restrictions that have hindered communications between Cubans and Americans for decades. — *The Washington Post*

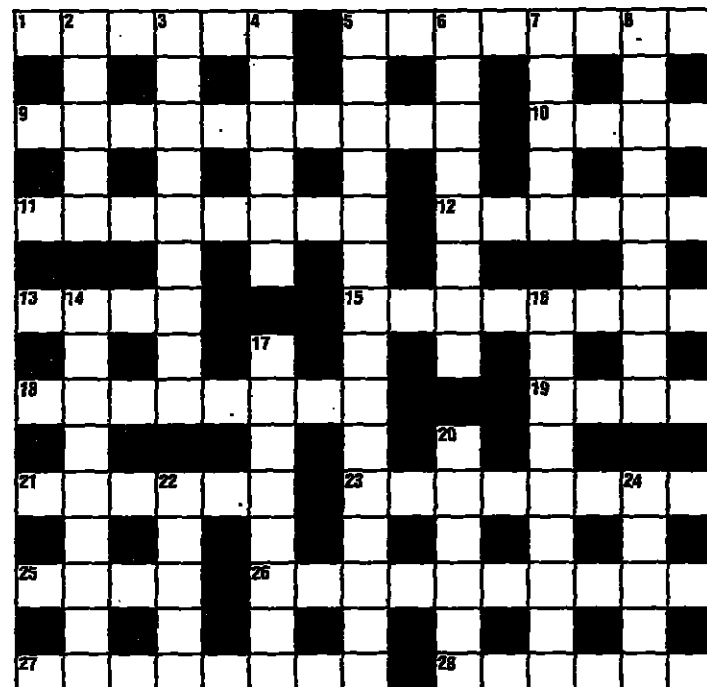
Defection of Alan Howarth, MP, the significance of being Jewish, classic novels on TV, funds for Sadler's Wells. Page 19

IN THE TIMES

STEEL STYLE
Tommy Steele takes to the stage again in the musical *What a Show!*

GEORGIAN STYLE
How should you restore a Georgian house? Rachel Kelly explains the dos and don'ts

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,982



- ACROSS**
- Unit in factory producing plastic (6).
 - Become more mellow after bar purchase (8).
 - Earliest form of rock music? (6-4).
 - Male with family to exploit (4).
 - Arrived to replace a diseased Japanese quince (8).
 - Rank of organized detectives (6).
 - Caves mostly dim? (4).
 - Tattoo director improvised in the field (8).
 - A group of vitamin D compounds can produce a heavenly body (8).
 - New or old? (4).
 - Get up a vigil before noon (6).
 - Hobo, old chap in three states (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,981

SEDIMENTARY
AIAEIRLAK
RAVEN TESTAMENT
AENSLOFE
BARRACUDA TITAN
ASKNT
NOISOME DESIGN
DONGE
ONEDGE
LONEDGE
LIBRA FOOTLOOSE
JANAVINS
CARTOUCHE
TREATS PIERLESS

- DOWN**
- The best salmon... (4).
 - ...leave a fish that is going hard (10).
 - Two stoneless fruits said to be good for deficiency disease? (8).
 - Can nervous cough indicate inner confusion? (6).
 - Grub of a particular variety (5).
 - Notice trim points of letter-opener? (9).
 - High-pitched ring on board (6).
 - Versatile artist in oil, or advanced new style (8,2,5).
 - Strong Spanish port becoming sour (8).
 - Upright type to whom Antony appealed (5).
 - Flirt attentive to women around teatime? (9).
 - End of the whistler in variety, long ago (9).
 - Mountain-gout, say, from the boondocks? (4-5).
 - Blimey! The Hole in the Wall found in scenic, coastal road (8).
 - A grand meal, cooked to leave one glowing (6).
 - Gurkha knife for work in the galley, we hear (5).
 - Name, formerly, for the present time? (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent Surrey Sussex	702
Dorset Dorset & Dorset	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire & Avon	705
Berkshire Bucks. Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants. Cambs. Cambs.	708
West Mid. & Shropshire	709
Stratford & Warwick	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Derby & Humberside	713
Derby & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Chwyd	715
W. Wales	716
W. & S. Wales & Wales	717
N.E. England	718
Yorkshire & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
East of Scotland & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
North & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
North & E. Highlands	726
North & E. Highlands	727
North & E. Highlands	728
North & E. Highlands	729
North & E. Highlands	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of London & Essex	733
West of London & Essex	734
National traffic & roadworks	735
National motorways	736
West Country	737
Wales	738
East Angles	739
North-west England	740
North-east England	741
Scotland	742
North & E. Highlands	743
North & E. Highlands	744
North & E. Highlands	745
North & E. Highlands	746
North & E. Highlands	747
North & E. Highlands	748
North & E. Highlands	749
North & E. Highlands	750

FORECAST

24 hours to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle storm; du=duff; h=heavily; g=gale; h=heavy; l=light; m=moderate; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; sh=showers; si=sleet; sn=snow; st=storm; t=thunder.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Wind	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hours to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle storm; du=duff; h=heavily; g=gale; h=heavy; l=light; m=moderate; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; sh=showers; si=sleet; sn=snow; st=storm; t=thunder.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Wind	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

FORECAST

light to moderate. Max 18C (64F).

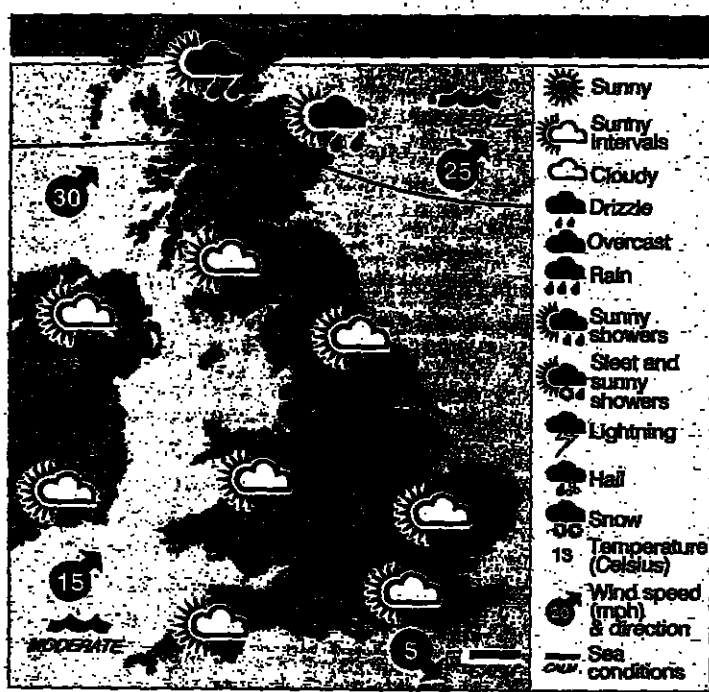
□ NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: clear or sunny intervals, chance of a shower later. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 18C (64F).

□ NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: clear or sunny intervals with scattered showers. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 18C (64F).

□ SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: showery rain clearing, then sunny intervals, rain later. Wind southwesterly, strong. Max 16C (61F).

□ NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny intervals, becoming cloudy with showery rain, clearer later. Wind southwesterly, strong. Max 13C (55F).

□ Outlook: a foggy start to the morning in many areas, with rain spreading southwards on Thursday.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low O will move northeast towards northern Norway with pressure unchanged. Low A will turn quickly northeast and deepen. High I will remain over central Europe with pressure unchanged.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28
London Bridge	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28	London	2.24	7.43	2.25	7.28

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